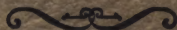


Laurel Edith Shubert

F^{ive}
H^{undred}
M^{ore}
L^{augh}s



Compiled by
RAY SCRUGGS
Judge County Court at Law No. 2
HOUSTON, TEXAS



Five Hundred More Laughs

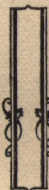


A Compilation of After Dinner Stories
and Amusing Anecdotes.

By

RAY SCRUGGS

(Judge County Court at Law No. 2, Houston
Texas. Author of "Five Hundred Laughs")



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By Ray Scruggs, Houston, Texas



foreword---

THE FIRST EDITION of 20,000 copies of this book was promptly sold, the purchases being made largely by professional men in every State in this country, in Hawaii, Canada, Newfoundland, Mexico, Porto Rico and Alaska. The demand being so great we have prepared and published this second edition containing a complete change of material, and we sincerely hope that this will likewise merit your approval.

A book of this sort, highly classified and indexed as it is, should be a valuable asset to the speaker as well as entertaining to those who do not appear upon the platform.

As in the first edition, no claim is made to originality. We have merely assembled those stories which we deemed most suitable after an exhaustive research of available material. If you are a prolific reader some of the stories will be familiar to you. It is impossible to assemble five hundred good stories without some of them having been read by others. Some of the stories you will like, a few you may not. Not everyone's sense of humor is the same, but we have tried to be versatile so that there will be something for everyone. Your consolation is, however, that there will be many herein which you have not read, and many which should evoke laughter whatever your temperament may be.

We sincerely hope this second compilation will be interesting, entertaining and useful to you.

Sincerely,

RAY SCRUGGS.

Additional copies of this book may be secured by addressing Judge Ray Scruggs, Houston, Texas, and enclosing \$1.00 in currency, check or money order.

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FIVE HUNDRED MORE LAUGHS

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Five Hundred More Laughs

Automobiles

1 FIXING THE BLAME

There was a fearful crash as the train struck the car. A few seconds later Mr. and Mrs. Pickens crawled out of the wreckage. Mrs. Pickens opened her mouth to say something, but her husband stopped her.

"Never mind talking!" he snapped. "I got my end of the car across. You were driving the back seat and if you let it get hit it's no fault of mine!"

2 ANNOUNCEMENT

The — Motor Company announced with anxiety its special 1927 sports model roadster especially equipped to accommodate the needs of the devotees of the modern pastime of pedestrian hunting. Some of the special conveniences attached are:

Barbed wire entanglements attached to both front and rear fenders to prevent wild pedestrians from turning on the hunters.

Magnetic bumpers to attract and hold fast any pedestrian that might try to escape by dodging.

Electrically charged nets with fan belt drive to aid the hunter in bagging some specimens alive.

Violet ray headlights guaranteed to blind all nightfaring pedestrians, thus making them easy prey.

Extra large running board racks on which to hang the game.

3 THE FORD AGAIN

A Ford had stalled and the usual crowd had collected around it, all offering expert advice. But to no avail, the Ford would not go. At last in despair the owner cried, "Doesn't anybody know anything about this car?"

"Only a lot of bum jokes," a mournful individual said.

4 STILL THE FORD

Guide (to tour party of the Ford plant): "Do you know what would happen if that man on the right side ever missed a day at work?"

Interested Onlooker: "No, what would happen?"

Guide: "Twenty-two hundred and sixty-one Fords would go out of the factory without springs."

Interested Onlooker: "Say, mister, that fella's been sick a lot, ain't he?"

5 A POSSIBLE FUTURE ATTRACTION

An enormous gathering attended the first annual beat-the-train-to-the-crossing contest held today. Gate receipts were large. There were seven entries. Trains were chartered to cross the crossing every ten minutes, until all of the entrants had contested.

First prize went to Lightning Johnson who crossed three-fifths of a second ahead of the engine. He received a new sport model Blue Lick auto as a trophy and will get a hundred dollars more for a signed testimonial saying he prefers the Blue Lick for crossing crossings. Second prize, a cheaper model Blue Lick auto, was won by Dare Devil Hudson who lacked only a fraction of an inch of clearing the engine. He will receive fifty dollars for a signed testimonial.

The other five contestants who drove Blue Lick cars all received sums sufficient for handsome funerals, the amounts being paid to their heirs for the suitable gift.

6 NO CHANCE TO ESCAPE

An automobile in Chicago recently smashed into and half ascended a telegraph pole. We don't know if any one took the trouble to look, but we'll lay our bet there was a pedestrian up there somewhere.

7 PUTTING HIM RIGHT

During a flag day in a London suburb recently, one of the pretty and youthful girl sellers approached a sour-looking gentleman who sat at the wheel of a luxurious car. "Will you buy a flag for the hospital, please?" she asked.

"No, thanks," came the surly reply; "I contribute regularly to the hospital."

"Ah," put in the girl sweetly, "but we're collecting money today, not pedestrians."

Brides and Grooms

8 SINGLE TWIN BEDS

"Do you prefer the single or twin beds?" inquired the salesman of the young farmer and his bride-to-be who were selecting furniture for their new home.

Never having heard of the duplex arrangement for sleeping the farmer cautiously asked to see the twin beds, and he waxed very enthusiastic when he saw a dainty model.

"That's fine," he said, without consulting the blushing girl at his side. "Put in one of those."

9 A GOOD WAY OUT

"Will," said a newly married friend to Will Maupin, the Nebraska poet, "I'm in a quandary as to just what I should call my wife's mother. I don't like to call her 'Mother-in-law' on account of all the comic paper jokes on that name, and somehow there's a certain sacredness about the word 'Mother' that makes me hesitate to apply it to any but my own."

"Well," said Maupin, "I can only tell you of my own experience. The first year we were married I addressed my wife's mother as 'Say'; after that we called her 'Grandma.'"

10 POOR BABIES

At the wedding reception the young man remarked: "Wasn't it annoying the way that baby cried during the whole ceremony?"

"It was simply dreadful," replied the prim little maid of honor; "and when I get married I'm going to have engraved right in the corner of the invitations: 'No babies expected.'"

11 A CRUSHER

"I wish they'd invent a new expression occasionally," said John, as he perused the account of a recent wedding. "It's always the blushing bride."

"Well," replied Mrs. John, "when you consider what sort of husbands most girls have to marry, you can't wonder at their blushing."

12 DAZED

"How did the Smith wedding come off?"

"Fine until the preacher asked the bride if she'd obey her husband."

"What happened then?"

"She replied, 'Do you think I'm crazy?' and the groom, who was in a sort of a daze, replied 'I do.'"

13 HIS TURN NOW

All went to the wedding of young Swampy Brown and the Widow Jackson. The occasion was celebrated with all of the usual festivities

and the guests upon departing felt very muchly pleased with the situation.

Later that evening some of the town folk were greatly surprised to see Swampy, suitcase in hand, waiting on the station platform for the New Awleens local to hesitate.

"Where you all gwine, Swampy?" asked one of the station loafers. "Ain't no way for a new hitched gemman to do. Wha' fo' you all waitin' fo' de train?"

Swampy looked down upon his friend in superior contempt. "I'se gwine on my honeymoon. Dat's whar I'se gwine, you good fo nuffin festicating low black!"

"But whar yo' woman?" the other wanted to know.

"Aw, she's home," replied Swampy. "She's done been married befo' and she's had a honeymoon."

14 THE FULL SOLEMNITY

At a negro wedding when the minister read the words "Love, honour, and obey," the groom interrupted him and said: "Read that again, sah, read it once mo' so de lady kin ketch de full solemnity ob de meanin'. I've been married befo'."

15 GETTING HIS TROUSSEAU READY

The kindly 'Squire of the neighborhood was just leaving from a friendly social visit to Mrs. Maguire.

"And your son, Mrs. Maguire?" said the 'Squire as he reached for his hat. "I hope he is well. Busy, I suppose, getting ready for his wedding tonight?"

"Well, not very busy this minit, 'Squire," answered the beaming mother. "He's upstairs in bed while I'm washing out his trousseau."

16 MAKING THE BEST OF IT

When the young husband reached home from the office he found his wife in tears.

"Oh, John!" she sobbed on his shoulder. "I had baked a lovely cake, and I put it out on the back porch for the frosting to dry, and, and the dog ate it!"

"Well, don't cry about it, sweetheart," he consoled, patting the pretty flushed cheek. "I know a man who will give us another dog!"

17 HER TURN NEXT

The widower had just taken his fourth wife and was showing her 'round the village. Among the places visited was the churchyard, and the bride paused before a very elaborate tombstone that had been erected by the bridegroom. Being a little near-sighted, she asked him to read the inscriptions, and in reverent tones he read: "Here lies Susan, beloved wife of John Smith, and Jane, beloved wife of John Smith, and Mary, beloved wife of John Smith." He paused abruptly, and the bride, leaning forward to see the bottom line, read to her horror: "Be ye also ready."

18 EXERCISE AND FOOD

"What do you want?" demanded Mr. Newlywed as he confronted the tramp at the door of the bungalow, "breakfast or work?"

"Both, sir," replied the wayfarer timidly.

"Well, eat that," returned the other savagely, handing out a biscuit and a piece of steak, "and you'll have both."

Whereupon Mrs. Newlywed glanced reproachfully at her husband, for he was giving away the first fruits of her culinary studies at the cooking school.

19 SURE WAY TO GET IT

"Harry," said the young wife, "I want a hundred dollars."

"But, my dear," her husband protested, "that's nearly all the cash

I have on hand at the present moment and I had planned to use it to take up a note."

"Oh, well, she returned carelessly, "if you think the man who holds the note can make things any hotter for you than I can, why, go ahead."

Thus it happened that she got the money.

20 CROSSED WIRES

The Bride (at the telephone): "Oh, John, do come home. I've mixed the plugs in some way. The radio is all covered with frost, and the electric ice box is singing."

21 BEING TAKEN

"Does yo' take this woman for thy lawfully wedded wife?" asked the colored parson, glancing at the diminutive, watery-eyed bow-legged bridegroom, who stood beside two hundred and ten pounds of feminine assurance.

"Ah takes nothin'," gloomily responded the bridegroom. "Ah's be-in' tooked."

22 FAIR ENOUGH

It's fair enough. The bride gets the showers beforehand but the groom gets thunder later on.

23 WHY?

The teacher was explaining to the class that brides "always wore white because the wedding-day was the happiest of a woman's life."

"Then why do the men all wear black?" asked a precocious small boy.

Children

24 THE STEP-SON

Everybody loves little Willie, aged six, who often plays out in the chicken yard with little Mary. Willie has fallen in love with Mary, and the other day he told his mother he was going to marry her.

"But Willie," said his mother, "you are not old enough to take care of a family."

"We're not going to have a family," explained Willie—"if Mary lays any eggs I'm gonna step on 'em."

25 TWISTED WORDS

A certain Manchester lady had a lord for a guest. At dinner she was very attentive to him. Almost every sentence was: "My lord, may I help you to," etc. Little son, observing lord trying to get a pickle, shouts: "Ma, God wants a pickle!"

26 A LONELY PLACE

"Mamma," said a little girl, "George Washington never told a lie, did he?" Being so assured, she continued: "And I guess pretty nearly everybody else did?" This being likewise admitted as probable, she went on, "I guess even father sometimes tells a fib, doesn't he?" It was hard to admit that, but it had to be. "And, mamma, you tell some once in a while? I know I do." When this was also reluctantly confessed, the child drew a sigh and said, "Oh, mamma! What a lonely place Heaven will be, with nobody in it but God and George Washington!"

27 A GOOD SALARY

Johnny, ten years old, applied for a job as grocery boy for the summer. The grocer wanted a serious-minded youth, so he put Johnny to a little test.

"Well, my boy, what would you do with a million dollars? he asked.

"Oh, gee, I dont' know—I wasn't expecting so much at the start."

28 HE'D STAY WITH THE MEN

Willie had been naughty and was being sent to bed by his mother without his supper. He was naturally aggrieved at the feminine sex and tumbled between the sheets without a word.

"Willie," she said, "say your prayers."

"I won't."

"Don't you want to go to Heaven?"

"Nah. I'm going with papa. Us men got to stick together these days."

29 REVENGE

A little boy had been punished by his mother one day, and that night at bedtime he prayed thus:

"Dear Lord, bless Papa and Sister Lucy and Brother Frank and Uncle Fred and Aunt Mary and make me a good boy. Amen."

Then looking up into his mother's face he said: "I suppose you noticed that you weren't in it."

30 ONE ON DAD

My good friend, Jerry, is very proud of his young son. On one of my visits to his home he was expatiating on the wonderful intellectual development and future possibilities of the little fellow. "Not two years old yet, and he knows all the animals by proper scientific classification already. He's going to be a great naturalist. You just watch him grow. Here, let me show you."

He took a book of Natural History down from the bookshelf, took Bobby on his knee, opened the book and showed him a picture of a giraffe. "What's that, Bobby?" "Horsey," said Bobby. Next a tiger was exhibited, and Bobby said, "Pussy." Then a picture of a lion was shown and Bobby said, "Doggy." To cap the climax a full-page picture of a chimpanzee was displayed, and Bobby enthusiastically exclaimed—"Papa!"

31 FORGIVEN

Little Polly, coming in from her walk one morning, informed her mother that she had seen a lion on the street. No amount of persuasion or reasoning could make her vary her statement one hairbreadth. That night, when she slipped down on her knees to say her prayers, her mother said, "Polly, ask God to forgive you for that fib."

Polly hid her face for a moment. Then she looked straight into her mother's eyes, her own eyes shining like stars, and said, "I did ask him, mamma, dearest, and he said, 'Don't mention it, Miss Polly; that big yellow dog has often fooled Me.'"

32 MUST BE SMOOTH

"Mother," said little Evelyn, "may I go out and play with the other little children now?"

"You may play with the little girls but not with the boys, for they are too rough."

"But, mother, if I find a nice smooth little boy can I play with him?"

33 A YOUTHFUL WIT

When he was a boy of six or eight years of age Robert B—— was the most incessant talker one could meet in a day's journey. He talked a blue streak all the time. It seemed as if his tongue were set on trunnions and worked simultaneously at both ends. One day his father took him along on an excursion to Niagara Falls. The tourists were newspaper men, and Robert was seated beside a prominent editor who was greatly entertained by the endless chatter of the youthful prodigy, and his many comical and witty remarks, but at length ventured to inquire—"Robert, I just wonder how you can talk so much without getting tired. What makes you talk so much,

anyway?" Quick as a flash came the answer, "Me? Why do I talk so much? I talk so much to get the wind out o' me, so as to make more room for my vittles."

34 THE TRUE AMATEUR SPIRIT

"Little boy," said the minister to the urchin, who was tying a can to a dog's tail, "do you know the wages of sin?"

"Is dis a sin?" queried Johnny, without looking up.

"It certainly is."

"Well, I don't want no wages fer dis. I'm doin' it fer de fun."

35 HIS CHOICE

In a certain town, which shall be nameless, an earthquake had terrified the inhabitants and set them scurrying away to other places.

But one particular family were unable to leave their business and so they sent their only child, a small boy, to an uncle's house, in case another 'quake took place.

Less than a week later the boy returned to his parents. In his hand he held a note addressed to his father. "Dear George," ran the missive,— "Am returning Willie herewith. Send the earthquake."

36 SO SON; SO FATHER

A small boy who had been very naughty was first reprimanded, then told that he must take a whipping. He flew upstairs and hid in a far corner under a bed. Just then the father came home. The mother told him what had occurred. He went upstairs and proceeded to crawl under the bed toward the youngster, who whispered excitedly, "Hello, Pop, is she after you, too?"

37 CHARITABLY INCLINED

"I hope my little Tommy has taken to heart mamma's talk of last night about charity and usefulness," said a fond mother. "How many acts of kindness has he done? How many hearts has my Tommy made grateful and glad?"

Her Tommy replied:

"I've done a whole lot of good, ma. I gave your new hat to a beggar woman, and I gave the cook's shoes to a little girl in busted rubbers what I seen on the street, and I gave a poor, lame shoestring-seller pa's black evening suit, the open-front one that he hardly ever wears."

38 SORRY

"Why, Freddie!" exclaimed the mother of a precocious five-year-old, "aren't you ashamed to call auntie stupid? Go to her at once and tell her you are very sorry."

"Auntie," said the little fellow a few moments later, "I'm awful sorry you are so stupid."

39 THE DANGER

Betty: "Let's make mud pies."

Bobby: "No, let's don't. Make mud pies an' the first thing you know, some one springs a bath on you!"

40 STOPPED PRAYING JUST IN TIME

A certain little boy had long expressed a wish for a baby brother. His mother finally advised him to ask God for one. He adopted the suggestion, and nightly asked God for a baby brother. After a time he became discouraged and announced that he should pray for one no longer. On Christmas morning his father took him to his mother's room, where two new baby brothers were awaiting his inspection. His first comment was: "Gee, Dad, isn't it lucky I stopped praying when I did?"

41 MUST BE SHOWN

Three young ladies had their beaux as company at their home, and

called their little brother, Johnnie, who had been going to school, to come in and parse for them, as they were proud of him. One of them said, "Johnnie, what is man?" "Man is a noun." "What kind?" "Common noun." "What gender?" "Masculine gender." "Correct," said the sister. "Now, Johnnie, parse woman. What is woman?" "Woman is a noun." "What kind?" "Common noun." "What gender?" "Feminine gender." "Correct. Now, Johnnie, parse cat." "Cat is a noun." "What kind?" "Common noun." "What gender?" Johnnie hesitated, and said, "Show me the cat."

42

PAY IF YOU STAY

Willie was five years old and went to church every Sunday with some other small boys, each one having a penny.

But one Sunday he went to church with his mother, and when the collection was being taken up he asked:

"Ma, have you got a penny?"

"No," said his mother.

"Then take mine, I'll get under the seat."

43

SHE INVESTIGATED

A woman was entertaining some friends at a small afternoon tea party. Her irrepressible little daughter behaved faultlessly until the party was nearly over. One particular guest had not ceased to arouse the child's curiosity. Finally she walked twice very slowly around the guest's chair.

"Well, dear, what is it?" the guest asked curiously.

"Mummie said you were two-faced, so I was trying to find the other one."

44

POOR PAPA

When little Doris climbed up to her father's knee it was quite obvious that some deep problem was troubling her mind. Presently she unburdened herself of the momentous question.

"Papa," she said, "was it a very wise person who said, 'The good die young?'"

"Yes," replied the father. "I suppose he must have been very, very wise."

"Well," said the child, after meditating for some time on the import of his answer, "I'm not really so much surprised about you; but—mummy—no, I don't see how mummy managed to get growed up!"

45

A SOFT ANSWER

A contractor who professed to be fond of children became very angry because some little fellow stepped on a new pavement before it was dry.

His wife rebuked him. "I thought you loved children," she said.

"I do in the abstract, but not in the concrete," he replied.

46

A FUNNY DOG

Mildred is a bright little girl of six. The other day she was with her mother in the park when she saw a dog whose species was entirely new to her.

That evening she thus described it to her father:

"It was such a funny dog, father; it looked about a dog and a half long, and only half a dog high, and it had only four legs, but looked as if it ought to have six."

Needless to say, her father recognized from her graphic description that Mildred had seen a dachshund.

47

A VERY NATURAL CONSEQUENCE

A little girl who could not resist picking her mother's currants as fast as they ripened, after being reproved for it several times, still could not refrain. At last her mother called her to her and told her

that hereafter whenever she was tempted to pull the currants to say: "Get thee behind me, Satan." But the next day the currants disappeared from the bush again.

The mother called her little one and asked if she hadn't remembered what she told her.

"Yes, mother," she said. "I did say 'Get thee behind me, Satan,' and he got right behind me and shoved me into the bush."

48 THE PUSSY CAT YARN

"Tom Barker," said the teacher, "stay in after school and write a composition of fifty words."

Tom handed in the following and was soon on his way to the swimming pool:

"Jessie was fond of kittens. She saw one on the road and called:
Here pussy, pussy, pussy, pussy, pussy, pussy, pussy, pussy, pussy, pussy,
pussy, pussy, pussy, pussy, pussy, pussy, pussy, pussy, pussy, pussy,
pussy, pussy, pussy, pussy, pussy, pussy, pussy, pussy, pussy, pussy,
pussy, pussy, pussy, pussy, pussy, pussy, pussy, pussy, pussy, pussy,
pussy, pussy, pussy, pussy, pussy, pussy, pussy, pussy, pussy, pussy,
pussy.

49 COALS OF FIRE

Stranger (to seven-year-old Boston boy): "Say, bub, where's Boylston street?"

Boston Boy: "While your mode of address, sir, seems to me to savor of undue, not to say of unwarrantable, familiarity you shall have the information you seek. You will, perchance, descry, some distance up the street, an imposing structure of commingled Renaissance and early Venetian architecture. The street for which you inquire is immediately contiguous."

50 NOT ALL IN HIM

"Thomas," said the mother, severely, "some one has taken a big piece of ginger cake out of the pantry."

Tommy blushed guiltily. "Oh, Thomas," she exclaimed, "I didn't think it was in you!"

"It ain't, all," replied Tommy; "part of it's in Elsie."

51 **CORRECT**

Policeman (to little boy who is lost): "What is your mother's name?"

Child: "Mamma."

52 TO BE PROPERLY SPANKED

A school-teacher boxed the ears of a pupil one day. The boy told his mother and the next day the teacher received the following note:

"Nature has provided a proper place for the punishment of a boy, and it is not his ears. I will thank you to use it hereafter."

53 TECHNICAL EXPLANATION

"And now my little Paul, do you know why I beat you?"

"Yes, papa! It's because you're a heavyweight and I'm a lightweight."

54 A REAL RESPONSIBILITY

Ethel's mother was very ill and, calling the little miss to her bedside, she said: "Ethel, what would you do if I should die?"

"Oh," answered Ethel, who did not realize the gravity of the situation. "I s'pose I'd have to spank myself."

55 ALL ABOARD

"All right behind there?" called the conductor from the front of the car.

"Hold on," cried a shrill voice. "Wait till I get my clothes on!"

The passengers craned their necks expectantly. A small boy was struggling to get his laundry aboard.

56 TOO HARD

"Ma," said a discouraged little pupil, "I ain't going to school any more."

"Why, dear?" tenderly inquired her mother.

"'Cause it ain't no use. I can never learn to spell. The teacher keeps changing the words on me all the time."

57 SHE WAS EXCUSED

One evening as the mother of a little niece of Phillips Brooks was tucking her snugly in bed, the maid stepped in and said there was a caller waiting in the parlor. The mother told the child to say her prayers and promised that she would be back in a few minutes. The caller remained only a short time, and when the mother went upstairs again she asked the little girl if she had done as she was bidden.

"Yes, mamma, I did and I didn't," she said.

"What do you mean by that, dear?"

"Well, mamma, I was awfully sleepy, so I just asked God if He wouldn't excuse me tonight and He said, 'Oh, don't mention it, Miss Brooks.'"

58 DIRTY IN A HURRY

James McNeil Whistler and a friend, strolling through a London suburb, met a small boy. Whistler asked him his age.

"Seven," the boy replied.

"Oh, you must be more than seven," said Whistler doubtfully.

"Seven," insisted the boy, rather pleased at being taken for older.

Turning to his friend, Whistler said, "Do you think it possible that he really could have gotten as dirty as that in only seven years?"

Courtship**59 BOTH FORGOT**

"Dear Clara," wrote the young man, "pardon me, but I'm getting so forgetful! I proposed to you last night, but really forgot whether you said yes or no."

"Dear Will," she replied by note, "so glad to hear from you! I knew that I said no to some one last night, but I had forgotten who it was."

60 HER VIEW OF IT

"Would you not like to fly with me to some hidden part of the world?" asked the enamored youth, "where the false conventions of modern society are things unknown, where the hampering requirements of our present civilization are unheard of, where the people live near to nature's heart, dreaming naught of our silly changes of fashion, knowing naught of the allurements of hats and dresses and —"

"Oh, Harold!" exclaimed the sweet young thing. "Is there such a place? Oh, how glorious it would be to go there."

"Do you mean that you would go?" he cried.

"Would I? It would be heavenly. Think of being able to introduce all the latest things in bridge and blouses and hats among the women there, and make them realize what frightful back numbers they are."

61 A PROLIFIC READER

A bashful young man was in love with a young lady who read a great deal; but the young man had read but very little. Every time he would call, she would begin by asking him if he had ever read a certain book. He always said no. This continued until he decided that the next time she asked him if he had read a certain book, he was going to say "yes," whether he had read it or not, as he decided she would never know the difference. The next time he called, she asked him if he had ever read "Romeo and Juliet." He said he had read Romeo, but had never read Juliet.

62 MANY ATTENDED

A young man with a pretty but notoriously flirtatious fiancée, wrote to a supposed rival: "I've been told that you were seen kissing my girl. Come to my office at 11 a. m. Friday, and be prepared to give an explanation of your conduct." The rival answered: "I have received a copy of your circular letter, and will be present at the meeting."

63 TOO JUVENILE

For miles they walked along the seashore—just he and she. Then they sat down in a secluded spot.

After half an hour he slipped his arm 'round her waist. She made no objection.

Next he kissed her. She made no objection. And at length he asked: "What shall we do now?"

Very slowly she spoke: "I—think—perhaps—you'd—better—run—home—to—mother."

64 HONORABLE ENOUGH

The father of Oscar's Seattle girl walked into the parlor where they were sitting one evening.

"Young man," said he, "I would like a few words alone with you. Will you please step into the next room a minute?"

Oscar stepped.

"Young man," her papa asked, "you have been running around with my daughter off and on for three years now. May I ask what are your intentions?"

Oscar pondered a moment.

Then he said, "Well, sir, my intentions are strictly honorable—but remote."

65 MAKING IT HOT

Tightskirt Tillie: "But, mother, I can't marry him. He's an atheist, and doesn't believe there is a hell."

Mother: "Go ahead and marry him, dear, and between us we'll convince him he's wrong!"

66 GOT 'EM HIMSELF

They had just become engaged.

"Oh, Will," she said, moving a trifle closer to him, "I'm so glad you are not rich! They say that some of those millionaires receive threatening letters saying that something dreadful will happen to them if they don't pay the writers sums of money."

"Oh, is that all?" replied Will. "Why, I get plenty of such letters."

67 HAPPY ENOUGH

The young man had just proposed and been accepted. He noticed a beautiful smile on the face of his beloved.

"Are you happy, dear?" he asked.

"I'll say so!" replied the girl. "Mother's been saying for two years that I'd never have a chance to marry, that I was so silly no man, not even a donkey, would propose to me, and now one has."

68 PETTY

Saw a girl in San Pedro, who said she found out a few things when she went to a party with a bunch of navy men. She arrived home with her hair all messed up and said, "Now I know why they call them 'petty officers.' Well, everybody's doing it."

69 UNEXPECTED SURROUNDINGS

"I hear you have given up Mabel."

"Yes, I thought she was perfect, but last night I found something about her I didn't like."

"What was that?"

"Harold's arm."

70

POPULAR

"Is your fiance popular with your people?"

"Rather! Dad comes down specially every night about twelve to see him off!"

71

SINGLE SEATER

Sweet: "Was the porch seat freshly painted, father?"

Papa: "Yes, I painted it yesterday—why?"

Sweet: "Well—nothing. Only Arnold and I sat on it last night, and he got paint on his trousers.

72

HE PRESSED HIS SUIT

The young man and woman had just finished a long argument. She had broken dates with him, she had gone out with other men, she had not written for three weeks, and still she was unrelenting; for what she did was right.

Finally she weakened a very little. "What a wonderful manly chest you have."

Whereupon the young man crashed through, "Well, at least I can hold you to that."

73

IMMEASURABLY SHY

Mother: "Clarisse, your sweetheart is a very timid young man."

Clarisse: "Timid isn't the word."

Mother: "Give him some encouragement. He'd make a good match."

Clarisse: "Encourage him! He can't take the least little hint. Last night when I was sitting on the sofa with him, I asked him if he didn't think it was strange that a man's arm and a girl's waist were the same size. Guess what he did."

Mother: "What any man would do. Find out for himself."

Clarisse: "No. He asked me if I had anything to measure with to find out if it were true."

74

CHEAP

The train had finally emerged from the blackness of a long tunnel. The conductor noticed a young couple both of whom were apparently quite flustered, and the young woman was nervously rearranging her disheveled hair.

Thinking to put them at ease, the conductor remarked pleasantly: "Did you know that the tunnel we just came through cost \$12,000,000?"

"Did it?" inquired the girl. Then she added after a pause, "Well, it was worth it."

75

GETTING THERE

Hiram had walked four miles over the Blue Ridge Mountains to call on his lady fair. For a time they sat silent on a bench by the side of her log cabin, but soon the moon, as moons do, had its effect and Hiram slid closer to her and patted her hand.

"Mary," he began, "y'know I got a clearin' over thar and a team an' wagon an' some hawks an' cows, an' I 'low to build me a house this fall an'——"

Here he was interrupted by Mary's mother who had awakened.

"Mary," she called in a loud voice, "is that young man thar yit?"

Back came the answer: "No, maw, but he's gittin' thar."

76

PLEASANT ENOUGH

A young lady complained to her male companion that she didn't like arithmetic. She couldn't understand it, and didn't see the use of it. The young man said he would teach her. "Now," said he, "I

kiss you three times on one cheek and four times on the other. How many does that make?"

"Seven," whispered the girl, disengaging herself to breathe more freely.

"Well," said he, "that is arithmetic."

"Dear me," said she, "I did not think it ever could be made such a very pleasant study."

77 SHE HAD SOME STATISTICS

He (after turning car into side-road and stopping): "I wonder how far we are from town?"

She (with a sigh as she starts to climb out): "Oh, just two soles and a pair of rubber heels."

78 WHITE SPECKS

Sambo and his lady friend were walking in the dusk of a summer evening.

On a nearby roof two pigeons were billing and cooing.

"What does dem pigeons make yo' think of, Sambo?" asked the lass, coyly, pressing close to him.

Sambo scratched his head. "Potpie!" he replied sadly.

79 VERY TRUE

The young science prof. walked along the seashore one moonlight evening with his lady friend.

She: "George, is it true that the moon affects the tide?"

He: "No, dearest, the moon affects only the untied."

80 WORKS WONDERS

Oswald (writing a letter to his friend): "Dear friend, you know I love Louise, but her father objects to our marriage, and if she can't be mine, I'll surely have to commit suicide. What do you advise?"

And his friend answered:

"Carbolic acid, old man."

81 NOT SO LOUD

Love-Sick Girl (talking to photograph): "Oh, Jackie-boy, you're the dearest man there is. You're the most wonderful, the most perfect, the most thoughtful. What a dear you are!"

Roommate: "You'd better whisper those sweet nothings, Mildred, or the maid will be leaving shaving water at the door in the morning."

82 THE FIRST ESSENTIAL

The following diagnostic report is as clear-sighted as it is witty:

Betty: "So Maude is engaged? Well, I'm sorry for the man. She doesn't know the first thing about keeping house."

Bessie: "Oh, yes she does."

Betty: "I'd like to know what."

Bessie: "The first thing is to get a man to keep house for."

83 DON'T BITE

Voice (in the dark): "May I kiss you?"

Complete silence.

Voice: "You wouldn't get angry if I kissed you, would you?"

Answer: "My goodness, do you want me to promise not to bite?"

84 NO GEOLOGIST

"That girl, Mary, you've been taking out lately has a reputation for being a clever little gold-digger."

"If that's true, then she must be a darn poor geologist."

Dentists

85 GOOD REASON

"Why are you smiling?"
 "I've just come from the dentist's."
 "Is that anything to smile about?"
 "Yes—he wasn't at home."

86 PROFESSIONAL CHATTER

Dentist: "Now, I'm not going to hurt, so just——"
 Patient: "Cut out the professional chatter, old man. I'm a dentist myself."

87 SUCCESS FROM GROANS AND ACHES

"The owner of that house," said Brown, "built it out of the blood, the aches and the groans of his fellowmen, out of the grief of children and the wails of women."

"Great Scott! The brute. What is he—a money-lender?"
 "Oh, dear no. He's a dentist."

88 WHY HE TALKED SO MUCH

A man got a set of store teeth. He went to a dentist and said, "What can be the matter? Ever since I got these teeth I can't keep from talking."

The dentist looked at them and he asked him where he got them and he said he got them at Sears-Roebuck's. "No wonder, you got a woman's set of false teeth."

Education

89 TWO ALMA MATERS—RESULT

A young country clergyman was boasting of having been educated at two colleges. "You remind me," said an aged divine present, of an instance I knew of a calf that sucked two cows."

"What was the consequence?" said a third person.

"Why, sir," replied the old clergyman, very gravely, "the consequence was, that he was a very great calf."

90 AN EXHIBITION

Dame: "You dear, little man. Where did you come from? What are you?"

Man: "I'm a college professor."

"Isn't that too cute for words. Oh, please do something absent-minded."

91 I WONDER

At a recent questionnaire submitted to college girls, 97 per cent of them admitted they necked. Only 3 per cent lied about it.

92 COMPETENT

A young lady applicant for a school out West, was asked the question: "What is your position upon whipping children?" and her reply was: "My usual position is on a chair, with the child held firmly across my knees, face downward." She got the school.

93 RESEMBLED IT

A professor of natural history, who was delivering a lecture on the chimpanzee noticed that the attention of the students was wandering.

"Gentlemen," he said sternly, "if you expect to conceive of the appearance of this remarkable beast you must keep your eyes fixed upon me."

94

RIGHT

Little Tommy had just been promoted from the Kindergarten to the First Form, where the boys were doing history.

"Now," said the master, "Queen Mary followed King Edward VI. Can any of you tell me who followed Mary?"

Tommy saw a chance to distinguish himself.

"I know," he cried triumphantly. "Her little lamb!"

95

WHERE IT OFFICED

Once upon a time a child who was asked on an examination paper to define a mountain range, replied, "A large-sized cook stove."

The same method of reasoning seems to go with older growth. A recent examination paper at the Sheffield Scientific School at Yale contained the question, "What is the office of the gastric juice?" And the answer on one paper read:

"The stomach."

96

TWO ZONES

"Bobby," said the teacher, "how many zones are there?"

"Two," answered Bobby, with a little questioning note in his voice. Then, seeing the puzzled look that came into the teacher's face, he rattled on without a stop: "One male and one female; the male can be temperate or intemperate, the female frigid or torrid——" and he stopped for breath.

97

WARTS

The geography class was in session and the teacher pointed a finger to the map on the class-room wall.

"Here, on the one hand, we have the far-stretching country of Russia. Willie," she asked, looking over her pupils and settling on one small boy at the end of the class, "what do you see on the other hand?"

Willie, hopeless with fright, hesitated a moment, and then answered: "Warts!"

98

TIES UP TONGUE TRAFFIC

Professor: "What's the most common impediment in the speech of American people?"

Freshman: "Chewing-gum."

99

HE WAS PROBABLY RIGHT

A teacher asked a pupil the definition of a "vacuum." After pondering over the question for a while the pupil replied, hesitatingly: "I have it in my head but I can't express it."

100

MOTHER REAL GLAD

"I hear that your boy devotes a great deal of his time at the university to Mah Jongg."

"I'm so glad he has taken to an old lady. I was so afraid he'd fall for some flapper."

101

A GOOD SPELLER

The young son of a well-known physician was observed by an understanding neighbor, moping toward home long after school had been let out. "What's the trouble, Frankie?" she inquired kindly. "Dyspepsia and rheumatism," was the rueful reply. "At such an early age?" said the neighbor with a twinkle in her eye. "No," the boy replied, thoroughly downcast because of a lost afternoon after school, "the spelling class."

102

SHE DIDN'T KNOW

"Now Harold," said the teacher, "if there were eleven sheep in a

field and six jumped the fence how many would there be left?"

"None," replied Harold.

"Why there would," said she.

"No ma'am, there wouldn't," persisted he. "You may know arithmetic, but you don't know sheep."

103 TURNING THE TABLES

Professor Blackie, feeling unwell, once wrote on his classroom door this notice: "The professor will be unable to meet his classes this evening." A student rubbed out a letter and made it: "The professor will be unable to meet his lasses this evening." Blackie, perceiving this, turned the tables by striking off the next letter, and making the notice read: "The professor will be unable to meet his asses this evening."

104 HISTORICAL

First student—"What did your mother say when she heard you had flunked out?"

Second student—"She became historical."

"Hysterical, you mean."

"No, I mean historical. She dug up my past and reviewed all my sins."

105 SEEKING A DEFINITION

Helen, you should know what an apology is. Now if a boy bumped into you in the cloak room, what would he do?"

"Please, teacher, he'd grab me and kiss me."

"Helen, that's not right."

"I know it ain't, teacher, but they all do it."

106 HOW THE YOUNG IDEA SHOOTS

Many children are so crammed with everything that they really know nothing.

In proof of this, read these veritable specimens of definitions, written by public school children.

"Stability is taking care of a stable."

"A mosquito is the child of black and white parents."

"Tocsin is something to do with getting drunk."

"Expostulation is to have the smallpox."

"Monastery is the place for monsters."

"Cannibal is two brothers who killed each other in the Bible."

"Anatomy is the human body, which consists of three parts, the head, the chist, and the stummick. The head contains the eyes and brains, if any. The chist contains the lungs and a piece of the liver. The stummick is devoted to the bowels, of which there are five, a, e, i, o, u, and sometimes w and y."

107 USED AGAIN

In a modern school a first-grade teacher was having a lesson on the cow. She was trying to impress on the young minds the various uses of milk. Butter, cheese, etc., had been disposed of and she wanted some bright pupil to tell how the farmer fed the surplus to the pigs, so she asked: "Now, children, after the farmer has made all the butter and cheese he needs and used what milk he wants for the family, what does he do with the milk that still remains?" One boy's hand waved frantically. "Well, James?" "He pours it back into the cow," piped James.

Financial

108 NO NEW ACQUAINTANCES

A co-ed went into a downtown bank to have a check cashed.

"But, miss," the paying teller advised her, "you'll have to get

someone to introduce you before I can pay you the money on this check."

The co-ed stared at him disdainfully.

"Sir," she said haughtily, "I wish you to understand that I am here strictly on business. I am not making a social call. I do not care to know you."

109

SUCCESS

The leading citizen and merchant-trademan of a small town announced one day that as he was worth \$50,000 he intended to retire from business. The announcement created some excitement in the community for although he was a prominent figure no one imagined he had accumulated enough to take things easy. However, his success was acclaimed on all sides and he was held up as a model of thrift, enterprise and the other desirable virtues.

The town's chief newspaper, accordingly, sent its star reporter to interview the distinguished citizen. He was told that his achievement offered a shining example to the young men of the town and he was asked what was the secret of his success.

"Well," he said, "I do not like to talk much about myself, but I would say that I owe my success in life to these things; hard work, courtesy, fair dealing, self-denial—these, and to the fact that an uncle of mine died last week and left me \$49,900."

110

TIME IS MONEY

Two usurers were speaking. One said:

"In the winter I charge one per cent, per week, and in the summer two per cent."

"Why this difference?"

"Because in the summer the days are longer."

111

MORE INTEREST

Hubby—"My dear, don't you know that you shouldn't carry money in your stockings? It is safer in a bank.

Wife—"That's true, Hubby, but I've found it doesn't draw as much interest."

112

MAKING SURE

"Jones wants to borrow \$20 from me. Is he good for that amount?"

"Yes, with proper securities."

"What would you suggest?"

"A chain and padlock, a pair of handcuffs, and a watch-dog."

Husband and Wife

113

RETORT

Husband and wife are driving along a lonely country road. They had been in a spat. A mule brayed.

"One of your relatives?" he asked.

"Yes, by marriage," was her reply.

114

SPROUTING AGAIN

Wife (looking at dark growth): "Why didn't you shave?"

Husband: "I did."

Wife: "When?"

Husband: "Just after you said you were nearly ready."

115

POOR HUBBY

O'Flannagan came home one night with a deep band of black crape around his hat.

"Why, Mikel!" exclaimed his wife. "What are ye wearin' thot mournful thing for?"

"I'm wearin' it for yer first husband."

116

THE CYCLONE AT HOME

The wife of a Philadelphia business man was traveling out in Dakota with a company of tourists. One day the chief clerk received an ominous dispatch from the conductor of the tourist company to the general effect that they had encountered a cyclone, and with the dispatch in hand he went into Mr. Brown's office to break the news to him as gently as possible, saying, "Mr. Brown, I am sorry, but we have—er—had news from Mrs. Brown. She has—er—er—encountered a cyclone." Brown laid down his pen, lit a cigar, leaned back in his chair and slowly remarked, "I pity the old cyclone!"

117

SHE FORGOT

Delta—"I saw Mary Brown walking in last night."

Gamma: "Why, I thought she was married."

Delta: "She is, but last night she and her husband were out riding and when he stopped out in the country she absentmindedly got out and walked home."

118

NOT HIS FAULT

Dividing the pay envelope.

Walking Delegate: "The men are not getting a fair share of the proceeds of their labor."

Employer: "Well, I can't help their being married."

119

TRAGIC

A man was standing before a tomb in a cemetery, and was lamenting in a loud voice:

"Oh, you should not have died! You should not have died."

A passer-by approached him and inquired solicitously, "Are you bewailing the loss of your mother or your father?"

"Oh no," answered the abject man, "it's my wife's first husband."

120

KNOWS HIS POKER

"And how is your husband?" asked the Reverend Mr. Smith.

"Not so well," confided the old lady. "The old man doesn't sleep well. All night in his dreams he is talking about kings and queens. I'm afraid James has been reading too much about Serbia and Bulgaria and those places. He also rambles a good deal about a dear old Auntie of his. I think she must have raised him."

"Perhaps it was he who raised the Auntie," said the absent-minded minister, with a retrospective gaze into the past.

121

AYE, AYE, SIR!

The host at a naval officers' dinner party was discussing the merits of girls of different nationalities, "I have kissed the bewitching French girl, the Japanese Geisha girl, the Indian maiden and the American girl, but I claim that the lips of my wife are the sweetest of all."

At this point a handsome young officer at the other end of the table exclaimed, "By George! That's a fact sir!"

122

WHY SHOULD HE?

Jones—"I hear that our friend Robinson was married on Tuesday."

Thomson—"Oh, I'm glad to hear that Robinson is married. And yet why should I be? He never did me any harm."

123

THE LAST WORD

"Shall I find every word in the dictionary, father?" asked Mollie.

"Oh, no, dear. New words are coined every day."

"Well, then, where shall I find the very last ones?" insisted Mollie.

"Ask your mother," said her father. "She has them every time."

124 NOT SURPRISED

"Mr. Bunting," said the doctor, as he left his patient to speak to her husband. "I am afraid your wife's mind is gone."

Husband (in no way startled)—"I am not surprised, for she has been giving me a piece of it almost every day since we married, and that's fifteen years ago."

125 THE COOK'S REWARD

The Smiths had lost their cook, and as no other could be obtained, Mrs. Smith turned in and did the cooking herself, and with such satisfactory results that after a month of delightful experience her husband gave her a beautiful set of costly sable furs as a slight token of his grateful appreciation of the good dinners he had enjoyed.

The good news soon spread in the neighborhood, and when the Browns lost their cook, the lady of that house said to her husband—

"Our cook has gone, and I am not going to bother about getting another. I am going to do the cooking myself, deary. I suppose you have heard what our neighbor Mr. Smith gave his wife when she did the cooking?"

And putting her arms around his neck, she cooed, "And what shall I get for my cooking?"

And then the cruel man, holding her at arm's length and speaking in the sepulchral tones of an undertaker, said—"Woman, you will get a long black veil!"

126 GAVE HIMSELF AWAY

Man may declare that he is lord of creation, but all the same he fears his wife above everything else should he happen to reach home very early in the morning. Recently a man who is a husband and a father, arrived home much later than usual "from the office." He took off his boots in the hall and stole upstairs and into the bedroom: but, vain precaution, his wife began to stir. Quickly, the panic-stricken man went to the cradle of his first-born and began to rock it vigorously.

"What are you doing there, Robert?" queried his wife.

"Why," growled he, "I've been sitting here almost two hours trying to get this baby to sleep."

"Why, Robert, I've got him here in the bed with me," said his spouse. And he never said another word all that night.

127 ROUGHLY SPEAKING

"Madame, is your husband home?" inquired a book agent. "I'd like to have him look at this book, 'What to Do in Case of an Accident.'"

"Just wait till I look around and see," replied Mrs. Peck grimly, "and if he ain't home he's going to need that book."

128 TAKING IT LIKE LITTLE MEN

Two friends had met after a year or so, to find that both were married. At that, they waxed confidential.

"Say, Bill, does your wife treat you right?" asked the first.

"Well, I can't kick," was the reply.

"You're blamed right you can't—neither can I. Tough, ain't it, old boy?"

129 LET'S PLAY HOUSE

A small, henpecked little man was about to take an examination for life insurance.

"You don't dissipate, do you?" asked Doc McHunt, the company physician, "not a fast liver, nor anything of that sort?"

"Well, I sometimes chew gum and eat mints," the little man replied tremblingly.

130 CERTAINLY NOT HEAVEN

The sick man had just come out of a long delirium.

"Where am I?" he said feebly, as he felt the loving hands making him comfortable. "Where am I? In heaven?"

"No dear," cooed his devoted wife, "I am still with you."

131 THEY PREFER 'EM

Mrs. McHunt has been more than slightly suspicious of her husband for some time. Finally she retained a detective agency to report to her on his movements. The hard-boiled shadow visited Mrs. McHunt for the first time.

"An' then he met this chicken and they went to the Driard House for dinner."

"Was she blonde or brunette?" inquired Mrs. McHunt anxiously.

"She was very much of a blonde."

"Thank goodness for that," exclaimed the neglected wife. "At least Doctor McHunt is still a gentleman."

132 A SURE SIGN

"I think there is company down stairs."

"How do you know?"

"I just heard mama laugh at one of papa's jokes."

133 HEN-PECKED

A certain composer did not live very happily with his wife. One day she entered his study, and smiled at him happily.

"My dear," she announced, "today is our thirtieth wedding anniversary. If you want to, in order to celebrate this event, I'll kill the hen——"

And the old composer answered very melancholy:

"Why take it out on the poor bird? It wasn't her fault!"

134 TACTFUL HINT

"There are times when I wish I were a man," she said wistfully.

"When?" inquired her husband.

"When I pass a milliner's shop and think how happy I could make my wife by giving her a new spring hat."

135 NOT THAT KIND

"Was your husband chopping wood last evening?" inquired Mrs. Pryer of one of the neighbor women.

"Chopping wood, no! He was detained in the office all the evening. What gave you that idea?"

"Why I heard him tell a man on the car that he accumulated a good healthy pile of chips before he quit."

136 NOT BECOMING TO HIM

Mr. X was a prominent member of the B. P. O. E. At the breakfast table the other morning he was relating to his wife an incident that occurred at the lodge the previous night. The exalted ruler of the order offered a silk hat to the brother who could stand up and truthfully say that during his married life he had never kissed any woman but his own wife. "And, would you believe it, Mary?—not a one stood up." "George," his wife said, "why didn't you stand up?" "Well," he replied, "I was going to, but I knew I looked like hell in a silk hat."

137 WILLING VICTIM

A married couple had engaged a cook. She was pretty, but her cooking was terrible, and one morning the bacon was burned to such a crisp as to be wholly inedible.

"Dear," said the wife to her husband, "I'm afraid the cook has burned the bacon. You'll have to be satisfied with a kiss for breakfast this morning."

"All right" responded the husband. "Call her in."

138 REVENGE

Squire Green—"Mandy, after I die, I wish you would marry Deacon Brown."

Mandy—"Why so, Hiram?"

Squire—"Well, the deacon trimmed me on a hoss trade once."

139 COMPARISONS

This comes from New York, where the club habit is pretty rife.

Says Mrs. Truit: "My husband is a sort of jack-of-all-trades; he can do almost anything."

Replies Mrs. Gayboy: "And mine is a sort of jack-of-clubs; he belongs to fifteen different societies and can do almost anybody."

140 FORCE OF HABIT

Absent-minded business man (after kissing his wife)—"Now, dear, I will dictate a couple of letters."

141 BEWARE OF SUBSTITUTES

A man, sitting in a restaurant, was looking steadily at a young girl facing him, at an opposite table.

"She reminds me of you," he finally remarked to his wife.

To which his spouse replied:

"If that's the case, you can look at me just as well."

142 A BURGLAR SCARE

She was telling a circle of sympathetic friends about the burglar scare in her home.

"Yes," she said, "I heard a noise, so got up at once. There, under the bed, I saw a man's legs sticking out."

"Good gracious!" exclaimed one of the ladies. "The burglar's legs?"

"No, my dear, my husband's legs. He had heard the noise, too."

143 HER HUSBAND WAS NERVOUS

"Julia," said the new rich mistress of the mansion, "be sure to mash the peas thoroughly."

"What, ma'am?" exclaimed the puzzled maid "Mash the peas?"

"Yes, I say, mash the peas. It makes my husband very nervous at dinner to have them roll off his knife."

144 HIS WORRY

Hubby—"What, another new dress? How on earth am I going to pay for it?"

Wife—"I didn't marry you to give you financial advice."

145 WHAT'S HOT?

"What if I were one of those husbands, my dear, who get up cross in the morning and bang things about, and kick like everything, just because the coffee is cold?"

"John," responded his wife, "I would make it hot for you."

146 GOOD INTENTIONS, BUT—

The lady in the following modern instance evidently did not know how to take time by the forelock.

Wife: "I fully realize that I ought to economize, Jack but——"

Husband: "But what? Don't you know where to begin?"

Wife: "Oh, yes; but I can't decide on the time."

147 A TWO-EDGED SWORD

Like the sting of the scorpion, the bite of this little story lies in its tail.

Wife: "Do you recollect that once when we had a tiff I said you were just as mean as you could be?"

Husband: "Yes darling."

Wife: "Oh, James, how little did I know you then."

148 THE WORST TRUTH

"Does your husband ever lie to you?"

"Never!"

"What makes you so sure?"

"He tells me that I look as young as the day I was married. Since he is sincere on this point, it follows naturally that he is the same for less important things."

149 THE END OF A GREAT CAREER

The circus proprietor, whose best line was worrying about something, was tearing his hair.

"What's the matter?" asked his assistant.

"Haven't you heard? The wild man got married last night."

"Well, why isn't that all right? He doesn't want to leave the show."

"No, but dammit, he won't be wild any more!"

150 CORRECTING A MISTAKE

"What are you going to give your husband for Christmas?"

"A raincoat and a pair of overshoes."

"You'll be sorry."

"Why?"

"I gave my husband a sealskin cap and a pair of gloves last year, and he didn't stay home one single night. If I gave him the old excuse about it being a bad night, he would say he was well protected."

"What did you buy him this year?"

"A smoking jacket, a pair of slippers and the 'Life of Alexander Dowie.'"

151 AN INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT

She was economical, industrious and ambitious young wife and often tried to persuade her husband to give up smoking. One day she pointed out to him, in exact figures, how much he spent on tobacco in the course of a year.

"And you will be better off" she said, "mentally and physically, as well as financially, without your pipe."

"But all great men have smoked," he urged.

"Well," she said, "just promise me that you'll give up smoking till you're great. I'll be quite satisfied."

152 AN UNANSWERABLE ARGUMENT AGAINST BIGAMY

At one of the schools in Cornwall, the inspector asked the children if they could quote any text of Scripture which forbade a man having two wives. One of the children sagely quoted in reply the text "No man can serve two masters."

153 UNNECESSARY

The suburban husband had shut the fox terrier inside the gate with care and started down the street with a last wave of his brand new Panama for little wifey standing in the doorway, when he just happened to think—

"By the way, dear," he called, "if, by any misfortune I can't get home to dinner, I'll send out a note by the messenger, and——"

"It's quite unnecessary, dearest," wifey answered sweetly. "I've already found that note in your coat pocket."

154 LABOR LOST

Some years ago there lived a lazy, shiftless man in Lancaster.

One night his wife put the cream in the churn, which was one of the old-fashioned kind, and asked him to do the churning.

"No," he replied, "I'm going out to see a friend," and he went out.

About 8 o'clock he returned. The churn still stood where it had

been, and he immediately set to work. After working nearly two hours and seeing no signs of butter, he shouted:

"I'll be cussed if I don't sell that cow!"

His wife, who sat near quietly mending, said:

"You need not. I churned as soon as you went out and put the butter away. That is the buttermilk you have been working on."

155 A BITTER RETORT

Husband and wife had "enjoyed" a little falling out,—as the best of couples will at times.

"Well," said the husband, anxious to patch up their quarrel, "aren't you curious to know what's in this package?"

"Not very," replied the still belligerent wife, indifferently.

"Well, it's something for the one I love best in all the world."

"Ah. I suppose it's those suspenders you said you needed."

156 HUSBANDS FIRST

"See that pippin over there? Well, I've made up my mind to take her home."

"Sorry, old chap, but I've decided to do the same thing."

"The hell you say! I spoke first."

"I know, but I happen to be her husband, you see."

Irish

157 ONE GOT IN

Two Irishman were walking along the street when one of them remarked, "How bright Orion is tonight."

The other Irishman looked up and said, "So that is O'Ryan, eh? Thank goodness there is one Irishman in Heaven, anyhow."

158 BREAD AND BUTTER

In the little magistrate's office around the corner Pat was being tried for disturbing the peace in innumerable ways.

"Haven't you any visible means of support?" asked the magistrate.

"Yes, sir, your honor, sure I have," said Pat. "Bridget, me darlint, come here and stand up so that the Coort kin see yez!"

159 IRISH WIT

Father X., of Dubuque, is famous for his wit, but a laborer on the railroad got the better of him the other day.

The laborer, one of the good father's parishioners, was laying sleepers under the superintendence of an Italian boss, and the priest smiled and said—

"Well, Pat, and how do you like having an Italian boss?"

Pat smiled back as he quickly answered, "An' faith, Father, an' how do you like havin' one yerself?"

160 A PATRIOT ALWAYS

A homesick Irishman had a job as a crossing guard for a railroad. The foreman handed him a red flag and a green flag, and told him:

"Whenever you see a train coming, get out and wave this red flag."

"Git away wid yer job!" exclaimed Pat. "Me wave a red flag whin Oi got a grane one handy? I'll starve first."

161 ANTICIPATION

A gentleman lying on his deathbed, was questioned by his inconsolable prospective widow. "Poor Mike," said she, "is there annythin' that wud make ye comfortable? Annythin' ye ask for I'll get for ye."

"Plase, Bridget," he responded, "I t'ink I'd like a wee taste of the ham I smell a-boilin' in the kitchen."

"Arrah, go on," responded Bridget. "Divil a bit of that ham ye'll get. 'Tis for the wake."

162

IN SYMPATHY

Pat Murphy was taking his first flight in an aeroplane. The pilot was taking him over New York City. When they were up about 3,000 feet the plane suddenly went into a nose dive.

"Ha, ha!" laughed the pilot, shouting to Pat, "50 per cent of the people down there thought we were falling."

"Sure," admitted Pat, "and 50 per cent of the people up here thought so, too."

163

TAKING NO CHANCES

An Irishman living in New York started what promised to be a large family. A baby came regularly every year for four years and then they were no more. A friend said to him one day: "Pat why is it your wife presents you with no more kiddies?"

"I don't want any more. Because," said Pat, "they say every fifth baby born in New York is a Jew."

164

HOLD THAT LINE

The Irish drill sergeant was putting a squad of green recruits through the different movements. He gave them "right dress." But try as he would he couldn't get a straight line. Finally in exasperation he shouted: "What's the matter wid yez? Can't ye line up? That line is as crooked as a politician. All yez fall out and take a look at it."

165

SEEMED INTENTIONAL

An Irishman was going along a road, when an angry bull rushed down upon him and with his horns tossed him over a fence. The Irishman, upon recovering from his fall, upon looking up, saw the bull pawing and tearing up the ground, whereupon Pat, smiling at him, said:

"If it wasn't fer your bowing and scraping and your humble apologies you brute, faith, I should think you had thrown me over this fence on purpose."

166

FEARED THE OTHER

An Irishman accidentally walked into a protracted meeting and was sitting on the back seat, and the minister was asking all to come up and give their hearts to Jesus. Some were responding to the invitation, and the minister walked back to Pat and asked him if he was living in the fear of the Lord. Pat says, "No; it is that other 'booger' that I am scared of."

167

UPSIDE DOWN

An Irishman about three sheets to the wind was on his way home. It was after midnight, and as he crossed a bridge he saw the reflection of the moon on the water. He stopped and was gazing into the water when a policeman approached from the opposite direction. The Irishman, addressing the policeman, said: "Phwats the matter down there?" "Why, that's the moon," replied the policeman. "Well, how in the deuce did I get up here?" said Pat.

168

WELL READ

"Pat, have you read the Declaration of Independence?" Pat—"No; be gorra."

"Have you read the constitution of the U. S. A.?" Pat answered: "No; be gorra."

"What have you read?" Pat answers: "I have red hair on me neck."

169

LOVE VIA THE MOP

"Is it true that you threw something at Mike that caused the swelling over his eye?" the 'Squire inquired of a little wiry Irish-woman who appeared one day, sobbing as if her heart would break.

"Yes sor, I did!" said the woman, catching her breath, "but I niver

mint to hurt him, an' well he knows it! We'd just come home from me cousin's weddin' an' I was feelin' kinder soft to Mike, an' I up an' axed him if he loved me as much as he did the day we was married; an'—an'—yer anner, he was so slow answerin' me that I up wid the mop an' flung it at him! If we poor women don't have love our hearts jist breaks inside uv us!"

170 INTERLUDE ZOOLOGIQUE

The scene is a saloon. Two Irishmen are in the saloon drinking and conversing. Suddenly a large insect scurries across the polished surface of the bar.

"Faith, an' did ye see the beetle?" asked Pat (the first Irishman).

"Sure, an' that was no beetle at all; a cockroach it was," replied Mike (the second Irishman).

The two disputed amicably for a while without reaching a decision, and finally put the question in the hands of the bartender, one Tim by name.

"Whisht now, yez is both wrong!" announced the latter triumphantly; " 'twas a ladybug."

"Beggorra, Tim," exclaimed Pat and Mike together, "I wish to heaven I had your eyesight."

171 GAMING

An Irishman, wishing to take a "homestead" and not knowing just how to go about it, sought information from a friend.

"Mike," he said, "you've taken a homestead an' I thought maybe ye could tell me th' law concernin' how to go about it."

"Well, Dennis, I don't remember th' exact wordin' uv th' law, but I can give ye th' meanin' of it. Th' meanin' uv it is this: Th' government is willin' to bet ye 160 acres of land again \$14 thot ye can't live on it foive years without starvin' to death."

Jewish

172 NOT SO GOOD

An insurance agent called on a Jew and tried to persuade him to take out a policy against fire. "Think how simple it is. You just pay five dollars, and in case of fire, you get three thousand dollars. Just a fire!" he added, "But you musn't make the fire yourself."

"Ah!" exclaimed the Jew, "I knew there was a catch in it somewhere."

173 A POOR BUSINESS LOCATION

"How iss business?" "Very poor. Noding's doing." "Vell—vy don't you?" "Mein himmel, how kin I—mit a fire-goocompany on von side, a fire-goocompany on de odder side, undt a schwimmin-school on top? I shall haf to move."

174 WHILE THERE'S LIFE THERE'S MONEY

Kahn was on his death-bed:

"Are you there, my good Rebecca?"

"Yes, my dear husband."

"And you Moses, my dear son?"

"Yes, papa."

"And you, my little Abraham?"

"Present, papa."

"And you Solomon, my faithful cashier?"

"Yes, Mr. Kahn."

"Well, my God, who's watching the shop?"

175 AHEAD OF THE POSTMASTER

A Jew gave his son a nickel and a letter and told him to go and get some stamps and mail the letter. After a while the boy returned and

still had the nickel. He asked the son why he had not mailed the letter, to which the son replied, "I dropped it in while the postmaster wasn't looking."

176

COHEN AT THE SEASHORE

Levi Cohen went to Rockaway Beach for the salt water bathing. He decided he wouldn't plunge into the surf for a few days so he walked down to the beach with a bucket and asked the man who had charge of the life-boat what it would cost for a little salt water so he could take a sponge bath in the bathhouse. The man sized Cohen up for an easy mark and told him 25 cents a pail. Cohen paid the quarter and started off with the bucket of water. The next morning he again appeared on the beach, bucket in hand. The tide was out about 100 feet. Cohen turned to the man and said, "Oi, vat a bizziness you are doing."

177

DUBIOUS

Berkowitz and Sternberg, traveling salesmen, met on the train. "I have just come from St. Louis, where I did a tremendous business," said Berkowitz. "How much do you think I sold?" "How should I know?" replied Sternberg. "Of course you don't know, but vhat do you guess?" "Oh, about half." "Half of vhat?" "Why, half vhat you say."

178

EXTINCT

A Jew was teaching his son how to sell dry goods. The father told the son to watch him wait on the next customer, and to do likewise. A lady came in and wanted some silk. He showed it to her and she asked the price. "Six dollars per yard." "Isn't that awful high?" she said. "Yes; but the silkworms are all dead." She bought the silk. The little Jew heard it all. The next lady who came in, the son waited on her, and she wanted some tape. He showed her some at \$2 per yard. "Isn't that awful high?" she said. "Yes, but the tapeworms are all dead."

179

CROOKED WORLD

A Jew boy started to school and was studying geography, and the teacher asked him if the world was round or flat. The Jew said neither. The teacher was surprised, and asked him again. He said, "Ikey, you say the world is not round nor flat." "Neither one, professor," says the Jew to his German teacher. "What is it then, Ikey?" "It's crooked," said Ikey.

180

APPRECIATION OF MUSIC

Old Mr. Rebivald took his son Isadore to a violin concert. He asked the man at the box office:

"How much is a ticket?"

"Two dollars."

"You see, Isadore," the old man said to his son, "this is a very good business. Hereafter you must practice your violin more seriously and you must try to give a concert as soon as possible."

181

A BETTER PLACE

"Abie vat you mean by blaying mit matches on de zidewalk? Come right away in de store and blay mit em."

Legal

182

ONLY A POOR, OLD JACKASS

The jury had been out on the case all morning and was still un-

decided. The vote stood 11 to 1 for acquittal but an old codger stubbornly held out for a verdict of guilty.

The sheriff came in at dinner time and inquired what they would have to eat.

"Wa-a-l" said the foreman disgustedly "you kin bring us eleven dinners." Then he added reflectively "and a bale of hay."

183 SOME ADVANTAGE

The young lawyer didn't like the minister, and so he thought to corner him. "Now, Doctor," he asked, "suppose the parsons and the devil should have a lawsuit, which party do you think would win?"

"The devil unquestionably," replied the minister.

"Ah?" chuckled the young lawyer. "And will you tell us why?"

"Because he would have all the lawyers on his side."

184 ENOUGH TO PAY THE FEE, IF—

"Well, Tom, as you want me to defend you, have you got any money?" Tom—"No, but I've got a mule, some chickens an' a hog or two." Lawyer—"Those will do very nicely. Now, let's see, what do they accuse you of stealing?" Tom—"Oh, a mule, some chickens an' a hog or two."

185 WHAT A LAWYER CAN DO

It seems that a lawyer is something of a carpenter. He can file a bill, split a hair, chop logic, dovetail an argument, make an entry, get up a case, frame an indictment, empanel a jury, put them in a box, bore a court, chisel a client, and such things.

186 RETIREMENT

"What is your occupation?" asked the judge, sternly.

"I haven't any," replied the man. "I just circulate around, so to speak."

"Please note," said the judge, turning to the clerk, "that this gentleman is retired from circulation for thirty days."

187 THIS JUST LEAKED OUT

"I'm sunk," said an old timer in police court the other day. "I'm sunk."

"What do you mean, sunk?" demanded the mayor curiously.

"Got nobody to bail me out," came the wistful reply.

188 CHEAP AT THE PRICE

"How, madam," demanded the attorney for the defense in a compensation case, "can you prove that the thumb you lost in this accident was worth \$5,000?"

"It was the thumb," retorted plaintiff, "under which I kept my husband."

189 A HOT SHOT

The secretary of the bar association was very busy and very cross one afternoon, when his telephone rang.

"Well, what is it?" he snapped.

"Is this the City Gas Works?" asked a woman's soft voice.

"No, madam," roared the secretary. "This is the Bar Association of the City of Louisville."

"Ah," came from the lady's end in the sweetest of tones, "I didn't miss it so far after all, did I?"

190 TRAFFIC COP'S REVENGE

In an Ohio town a preacher was summoned to court for driving his motor beyond the speed limit.

"Now," said the magistrate, "you say you were going at only 18 miles an hour, but the constable declares you were proceeding at thirty. Now, I don't like to doubt either of you. Can you think

why he declares you were going at that rate? Is there any grudge he owes you?"

"No," replied the clergyman. "No I can't think of anything—unless it is that I married him three years ago."

191 A TWENTIETH CENTURY WILL

The following is from the will of a Wall Street man which has been recently probated:

To my wife I leave her lover and the knowledge that I wasn't the fool that she thought I was.

To my son I leave the pleasure of earning a living. For thirty-five years he thought the pleasure was mine. He was mistaken.

To my daughter I leave \$100,000. She will need it. The only good piece of business her husband ever did was to marry her.

To my valet I leave the clothes that he has been stealing from me regularly for the past ten years. Also the fur coat that he wore last winter when I was in Palm Beach.

To my chauffeur I leave my cars. He almost ruined them and I want him to have the satisfaction of finishing the job.

To my partner I leave the suggestion that he take some other clever man in with him at once if he expects to do any business.

192 LIMITATIONS

"Sam, do you solemnly swear to tell the truth, and nothing but the truth?"

"Ah does sah."

"Sam, what have you got to say for yourself?"

"Well, Jedge, wif all dem limitations you have jes' put on me, ah don't believe ah has anything at all to say."

193 LAWYER KNEW BETTER

Tom Ochiltree, having been hurt in a railway accident, brought suit for damages. Walking with the aid of crutches some months afterward he met a friend, who inquired:

"Can't you get along without crutches, Tom?"

"The doctor says I can," said Ochiltree, "but my lawyer says I can't."

194 CONSCIENCE UNNECESSARY

There was a certain prominent physician who had a serious operation to perform on one of his patients," said the farmer. "During the operation the physician became rather nervous and excited, and instead of removing the membrane he was after, accidentally took out the man's conscience."

Here the farmer stopped.

The lawyer inquired, "Well, what became of the patient? Did he get well?"

"Oh, yes," replied the farmer, "but having his conscience taken out he was not fit for anything else, so he studied law."

195 HIRED

A judge disgusted with a jury that seemed unable to reach an agreement in a perfectly evident case rose and said, "I discharge this jury."

One sensitive talesman, indignant at what he considered a rebuke, obstinately faced the judge.

"You can't discharge me," he said in tones of one standing upon his rights.

"And why not?" asked the surprised judge.

"Because," announced the juror, pointing to the lawyer for the defense, "I'm being hired by that man there!"

196 TO JAIL

A prominent bootlegger was arraigned in night court for assault

and battery. The magistrate pondered several minutes and finally said: "The defendant is fined ten dollars."

The bootlegger laughed as he said gleefully: "Judge, I got that little ten spot right here in my left hand vest pocket."

"That's great," heaved the Arm of the Law. "Now scratch around in your right hand vest pocket and see if you can find thirty days."

197

HE FORGOT

One day two lawyers who were pleading a case became angry and one of them said:

"That attorney is the ugliest and meanest lawyer in the country."

"You forget yourself, you forget yourself, Mr. Smith," said the court, rapping with his gavel.

198

THE BIGGEST

Two lawyers before an American judge recently got into a wrangle. At last one of the disputants, losing control over his emotions, exclaimed to his opponent: "Sir you are the biggest fool that I have ever had the misfortune to set eyes on." "Order, order," said the judge, gravely. "You seem to forget that I am in the room."

199

INSIDE, PLEASE

"Your Honor," said the prosecuting attorney, "your bull pup has went and chewed up the court Bible."

"Well," grumbled the judge, "make the witness kiss the dog. We can't adjourn to get a new Bible."

200

AN INFORMAL VERDICT

An assault case was being tried; the prosecuting attorney exhibited to the court an iron bar, an axe, a big hammer, a pick, and a gun. "With these," he explained, "the defendant attacked the complainant."

The defendant's attorney produced a piece of a rail, a buggy axle, a length of lead pipe, a brick and a revolver. "These," said he, "were the weapons used against my client."

The jury returned into court after a short deliberation, with this finding: "We, the jury, determine that we would have given \$5.00 to see the fight."

201

DOUBTFUL COMPLIMENT

"Did you present your account to the defendant?" inquired a lawyer of his client. "I did, your honour." "And what did he say?" "He told me to go to the devil." "And what did you say then?" "Why, I came to you."

202

DAMAGES ENOUGH

An old colored woman was seriously injured in a railway accident. One and all of her friends urged the necessity of suing the wealthy railroad corporation for damages.

"I 'clar' to gracious," she scornfully replied to their advice, "ef dis ole nigga ain't done git mor'n nuff o' damages! What I'se wantin' now and what I'se done gwine to sue dat company foh is repairs."

203

CROSS EYES

A man who was very cross-eyed happened to put his hand into another man's pocket, and took out his watch. He told the judge that he "only wanted to know the time." And the judge said it was "Three years."

204

WHY HE KNEW

A prominent judge, who was an enthusiastic golfer, had occasion to question a boy witness in a criminal suit.

"Now, my boy," said the judge, "are you sure that you know the

nature and significance of an oath—that is, what an oath really means?"

The boy looked up at the judge in surprise, and then answered: "Why, of course I do, judge. Don't I caddy for you at the Country Club?"

205

A WITTY REPLY

One day a celebrated advocate was arguing before a very stupid and very rude Scottish judge who, to express his contempt of what he was saying, pointed with one forefinger to one of his ears, and with the other to the opposite one. "You see this, Mr.—?" "I do, my lord," said the advocate. "Well, it just goes in here and comes out there." And his lordship smiled with the hilarity of a judge who thinks he has actually said a good thing. "I do not doubt it, my lord. What is there to prevent it?"

206

A CONTINGENT FEE

A young lawyer, whose cases were few, was asked to defend a poverty-stricken tramp accused of stealing a watch. The lawyer pleaded with all the ardor at his command, drawing so pathetic a picture with such convincing energy that at the close of his argument the court was in tears, and even the tramp wept. The jury deliberated but a few minutes, and returned the verdict "Not guilty." Then the tramp drew himself up, tears streaming down his face as he said: "Sir, I have never heard so grand a plea. I have not cried before since I was a child I have no money with which to reward you, but," (drawing a package from the depths of his ragged clothes) "here's that watch; take it and welcome."

207

STRIPS 'EM

Little Willie—"What is a lawyer, pa?"

Pa—"A lawyer, my son, is a man who induces two other men to strip for a fight, and then runs off with their clothes."

208

OBLIGING THE JUDGES

A barrister was met by a friend the other day in the street, laden with a lot of law books. Pointing at the books, his friend said, "Why, I thought you carried all that stuff in your head!" "I do," quickly replied the lawyer, with a knowing wink: "these are for the judges."

209

MODEST BUT TRUTHFUL

A certain lawyer had found the witness difficult to manage, and finally asked the man whether or not he was acquainted with any of the men whom he saw in the jury box.

"Yes, sir," replied the witness, "more than half of them."

"Are you willing to swear that you know more than half of them?" demanded the lawyer.

"Why," retorted the witness, "if it comes to that, I'm willing to swear that I know more than all of them put together."

210

HIS DUTY

In a recent election a farmer happened to be elected justice of the peace in the backwoods of Georgia.

His first case was one in which the defendant asked for trial by jury. When the testimony was all in and the argument had been concluded the justice seemed somewhat embarrassed. Finally one of the lawyers whispered to him that it was time to charge the jury.

Looking at the jury with a grim, judicial air, the judge said:

"Gentlemen ob de jury, sense dis is a very small case, I'll jes charge y'll a dollar an' a ha'f a piece."

Medical

211

LESS TROUBLE

A man called upon his doctor and complained of a serious pain in his midriff. The medico, after sounding the man's interior, announced that an operation was necessary.

"But, Doc," replied the patient in grieved tones, "this will make the sixth operation you've performed on me in the last two years, why not put on swinging doors!"

212

PATIENCE FOR PATIENTS

Old Doctor: "What do you want, my lad?"

Young Physician: "I want a little advice on how to succeed in this profession."

Old Doctor: "Just have patience, my son, have patience."

213 THE MEDICINE GAVE GREAT SATISFACTION

A young fellow wearing a blithesome smile and an Ulster overcoat came out of the St. Nicholas and rushing up to a professional looking gentleman passing by, said: "Why, doctor, I am glad to see you. I want to thank you for that medicine you prescribed for me."

"It helped you, did it?" the old gentleman beamingly inquired.

"It helped me wonderfully."

"How many bottles did you find it necessary to take?"

"Oh I didn't take any of it. My uncle took one bottle and I am his sole heir."

214

A SMALL DISEASE

"Oui, madame is ill but ze doctor haf pronounce it somezing very trifling, very small," said the French maid to an inquiring friend.

"Oh I am so relieved, for I was really anxious about her," replied the friend. "What does the doctor say the trouble is?"

"Let me recall. It was somezing very liddle," answered the maid. "Oh, I have it now! Ze doctor say zat madame has ze smallpox."

215

WON THE ARGUMENT

Robert Smith, brother of Sydney Smith, and an ex-Advocate-General, on one occasion engaged in an argument with a physician over the relative merits of their respective professions.

"I don't say that all lawyers are crooks," said the doctor, "but you'll have to admit that your profession doesn't make angels of men."

"No," retorted Smith: "you doctors certainly have the best of us there."

216

HOW TO GET REST

Doctor—"What your husband needs, Mrs. Nagget, is a complete rest. I have prescribed a sleeping draught."

Mrs. N—"Very well, doctor; when shall I give to him?"

Doctor—"Don't give it to him at all. Take it yourself."

217

FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE

Gaston, who was suffering from bronchitis, consulted his doctor. The man of science questioned him on all the symptoms and shaking his head with a knowing air, prescribed a remedy, which, he assured him, would promptly bring relief.

"You seem to have a great deal of experience with this sickness," remarked Gaston.

"Oh, yes," answered the doctor, "for more than fifteen years I've been suffering from bronchitis myself."

218

TOO BUSY TO LISTEN

A man once walked into the office of a very busy doctor. He started to say something but the doc interrupted him with:

"What do you mean by coming into this office like that? Go and strip off your clothes at once!"

"But I have—" began the man.

But the doctor exclaimed: "I tell you I am a very busy man and have no time to waste! My examinations are foremost with me! Go and take off your clothes!"

The man left the room in haste and soon came in stripped.

"What I wanted to say" said the man, "is that I have come to collect your grocery bill."

219

CAUTIOUS

"Well, well," said Doctor Bigbill, as he met a former patient on the street, "I'm glad to see you again, Mr. Brown. How are you this morning?"

"First, Doctor," said Mr. Brown cautiously, "does it cost anything to tell you?"

220

TOO DANGEROUS

"What you need is electric baths."

"Nothing doing, Doc. I had an uncle drown that way up in Sing Sing."

221

NEEDED CLEANSING

As Doctor Jones was passing a country home one day, a middle-aged woman called him and said:

"Doctor, it looks as if medicine does not help my children. I have had a doctor with them almost every week for the past six months and I have about decided that the only thing that can be done for them is to carry them to some spring; that might cure them. I want your advice as to the best place to take them."

The doctor looked at the mother and then at the children for a few moments and said:

"Madam, I don't think it matters much to which spring you take them, provided you use plenty of soap and water when you get there."

222

A LADY KILLER

"Is it true, doctor," asked a gushing young lady, "that you are a lady killer?"

"Madam" replied the doctor. "I make no distinction between the sexes."

223

A DOCTOR'S WISH

"What is your greatest wish doctor now that you have successfully passed for your degree?"

Young Doctor—"To put, 'Dr.' before my own name and 'Dr.' after the name of other people."

Men

224

GIVING HIM A HINT

Here is a nutshell dialogue between a man and a woman, in which the former gets the worst of it.

He: "I suppose you hold that a man should never deceive his wife?"

She: "Oh, no. I wouldn't go so far as that. How would it be possible for the average man to get a wife if he didn't deceive her?"

225

A CLOSE SHAVE

A little girl asked her mother if there were any men in heaven.

"Mamma," she said, "I never saw a picture of an angel with a beard or a moustache. Do men ever go to heaven?"

"Oh, yes," replied the mother, "men go to heaven, but it's always by a close shave."

226 CAN'T BE DONE

A man can fool all women some of the time, and some women all the time, but what bothers a man most is why he can't fool the same woman the same way all of the time.

227 HORSE SENSE

Willie: "Pa, when has a man got horse sense?"

Father: "When he can say 'nay.' "

228 PROVING HIS WORDS RATHER UNEXPECTEDLY

A would-be wit once said, speaking of the fair sex: "Ah, its woman's mission to make fools of men." "And how vexed we are," said a bright-eyed feminine present, "to find that nature has so often forestalled us."

229 HOW ABOUT A COUPLE OF SMOKES

Two delegates to a state convention in Minneapolis last month went into a cafe while their wives shopped. At the finish of the dinner the waiter leaned over the table and asked:

"Shall I bring in a couple demitasses?"

"Gosh, no," said one of the regular gosh-darners, "our wives might come in any minute an' catch us with 'em."

230 SUPPLY AND DEMAND

A misogynist said to a woman: "All this feminism is sheer nonsense. There isn't a woman alive who wouldn't rather be beautiful than intelligent."

"That," said the woman, "is because so many men are stupid and so few blind."

231 TYPICAL MAN

A man is a creature who will spot a shapely ankle three blocks away while driving an automobile, in a crowded city street, but who will fail to notice in open country a locomotive as big as a house accompanied by a flock of forty box cars.

Musical

232 NOT MUSICALLY INCLINED

As the celebrated soprano began to sing, little Johnnie became greatly exercised over the gesticulations of the orchestra conductor.

"What's that man shaking his stick at her for?" he demanded indignantly.

"Sh-h! He's not shaking his stick at her."

But Johnnie was not convinced.

"Then what in thunder's she hollering for?"

233 CRITICISM

Mr. Braman was one of the guests at a dinner followed by a musical. The hostess had been playing on the piano. As she began another selection he leaned over to a charming young woman seated next to him and asked:

"What do you think of her execution?"

The girl turned calmly and replied, coolly: "I am in favour of it!"

234 THAT WAS ENOUGH

A young Frenchman in the Sophomore class of an American college was invited to a musical entertainment given by his classmates, where there were sung, in honor of the foreigner, a number

of French songs, and they were given in the best American-French.

"I say, old man," observed one of the sophomores, after the entertainment, "I suppose those French songs made you feel a little homesick, eh?"

"No," replied the Frenchman, "only sick."

235

THE SOLUTION

A young lady called one day on Rubinstein, the great pianist, who had consented to listen to her playing.

"What do you think I should do now?" she asked, when she had finished.

"Get married," was Rubinstein's answer.

The Negro

236

THE TURKEY WAS TAME

A gentleman who was buying a turkey from old Uncle Ephraim asked him, in making the purchase, if it was a tame turkey.

"Now, Ephraim, are you sure it's a tame turkey?"

"Oh, yais, sir; dere's no so't o' doubt 'bout dat. It's a tame tu'key, all right."

He consequently bought the turkey, and a day or two later, when eating it, came across several shot. Later on, when he met old Ephraim on the street, he said:

"Well, Ephraim, you told me that was a tame turkey, but I found some shot in it when I was eating it."

"Oh, dat war a tame tu'key all right," was Uncle Ephraim's reiterated rejoinder, "but de fac' is, boss, I's gwine to tell yer in confidence, dat dem' er shot was intended for me."

237

WHEN ARE THEY IN SEASON?

The old Southern colonel, returning after a considerable absence, asked a friend: "What's the news?"

"Well, the legislature has passed a law makin' it a crime to shoot a nigger," the friend answered.

"You don't say!" exclaimed the colonel in some amazement. "In what month?"

238

GETTING READY

"Has you made all arrangements for your marriage, Mandy?"

"Well, not quite all, Dinah, I's got to buy a trooso, an' rent a house, an' get mah husband a job, an' buy him a good suit o' close an' get some reg'lar washin' work to do. An' when them's done Ah kin name the happy day."

239

USELESS

Mirandy (to her husband): "Huh—s'bout time yo' all done got yo' self a job, you lazy nigger!"

Rastus: "Honey, I'se not lazy. I'se only out o' work fo'teen weeks."

Mirandy: "Hush, nigger, hush! The mo' I hears yo' talk, the mo' yo' all 'mind me of a airship."

Rastus: "Airship? How come—'cause I'se such a high flyer?"

Mirandy: "No—doggone yo' black hide—'cause yo' ain't no use on this earth!"

240

A STRANGE COINCIDENCE

A passenger on a New York and Chicago limited train, looking under his berth in the morning, found one black shoe and one tan. He called the porter's attention to the error.

The porter scratched his head in bewilderment.

"Well, ef dat don't beat all," he said. "Dat's de second time dis mawin' dat mistake's happened!"

241

MISUNDERSTOOD

A gentleman of color promised to take his girl to a dance, but at the last moment he found he would not be able to go, so he sent her a bunch of roses and told her to go without him. She went to the dance alone, and the next time they were together he asked her if she received the roses and if she wore them to the dance.

"I didn' wear nothing else," she said, in the slang of the street.

He thought, scratched his head and then asked: "What did you pin them to?"

242

THEN THE FIGHT

A colored man and his wife were brought into court, charged with disturbing the peace.

"Sambo," said the judge, "you are accused of disturbing the peace on Saturday night. What have you got to say about it?"

"Well, suh, it was dis way, jedge," said Sambo. "Me an' mah wife gets into a argument ober de washin' money she make. She call me a lazy loafer an' Ah slap her down. Up she git an' smash me wif a skillet. Den Ah riz up an' hang a chair ober her haid. Den she throwed a pot of hot coffee in mah face. Den ah kicks her in de neck."

"I see," said the judge, "and then what happened?"

"Den we gits mad an' starts to fight," replied Sambo.

243

THRIFTY MOSE

Mose entered a general store and asked to be shown some washboards. Those that the clerk showed him Moses thought were too lightly constructed, and he asked to see some heavier ones.

"Yoh see," he explained, "de las' one makes de fourth one dat mah wife done bus' obah mah haid, an' ah jus' cain't stan' for de wicked expense!"

244

WOULDN'T RISK IT

"Why don't you get out and huztle? Hard work never killed anybody," remarked the philosophical minister to whom Rastus applied for a little charity.

"You're mistaken dar, boss," replied Rastus; "I'se lost fough wives dat way."

245

NO LAWYER WAS WANTED

An old darky, charged with stealing chickens, was arraigned in court and was incriminating himself, when the judge said: "You ought to have a lawyer. Where's your lawyer?"

"Ah ain't got no lawyer jedge," said the old man.

"Very well, then," said his honor, "I'll assign a lawyer to defend you."

"Oh, no, suh; no, suh! Ple-ease don't do dat!" the darky begged.

"Why not?" asked the judge. "It won't cost you anything. Why don't you want a lawyer?"

"Well, Jedge, Ah'll tell you' suh, said the old man, waving his tattered old hat confidentially. "Hit's jes' dis way—Ah wan' tuh enjoy dem chickens mase'f!"

246

BIRTH OR BERTH?

A commercial traveler is on friendly terms with the porter of a sleeping-car that he frequently uses.

"What do you think, James," announced the salesman one morning gleefully, "I have good news for you. We've had a birth in our family—twins."

"Dat am no berth, sah," said James with a broad grin: "dat am a section!"

247

FAMILY PRIDE

An American woman went to see her negro cook who was in bed. She gave the cook's small son, Ephraim, a dollar with which to buy a chicken for his mother.

In leaving she overheard the cook say: "Gimme dat dollar, chile, an' go git dat chicken in the natchrul way."

248

CAUTIOUS

On one occasion the judge said: "Joshua, you are accused of stealing the general's chickens. Have you any witnesses?"

"No, sah," said Joshua haughtily. "I hab not, sah. I don't steal chickens befo' witnesses, sah."

249

COLORED APOSTLES

The darkey preacher and one of his deacons fell to discussing the color-line amongst the apostles. The deacon maintained that "all de 'postles was cullud pussons, 'cause don't you see, Bruddah, dat de Holy Lan' is 'bout de same latitude as Africa, an' dey all jist muss a bin cullud." But the parson was of a contrary opinion, declaring that while "O' co'se some on 'em mout a bin cullud, dey wa'n't all dat a way. Dar, fer 'sample, was Saint Paul—he mout a bin cullud, but den dar war Saint Peteh, he wa'n't. I know he wa'n't." "An' how you know dat, Bruddah?" quired the deacon. "Wa'll, deacon," said the preacher, "Saint Peteh nevah was a cullud pusson, 'case if he had a bin cullud dat dar rooster wouldn't a crowed more'n onct."

250

SCRATCHIN'

"I hear, Uncle Wash," said Doctor Brown, "that all your folks have the itch."

"Yas suh, Doctah," replied the old ducky, "De good Lawd has done 'flicted we-all dat way."

"And are you doing anything for it, Uncle?"

"Oh, yas suh, Doctah, yas suh."

"What are you doing?"

"Why, suh, Doctah, we-all is scratchin,' suh!"

251

INEXPERIENCED JUDGE

A colored woman was arrested for beating her little boy unmercifully. Found guilty, the judge asked her if she had anything to say in her own behalf; and to this she replied:

"Jedge, Ah'd jes 'lak to ax yo' one question."

"All right, what is it?"

"Ah'd jes 'lak to ax yo' is yo' ev'r been the parent of a puffectly wuthless cullud chile?"

252

FAST MOTION

Two colored boys who had just stolen a sack of chickens were running down the road. "See here, Harry, what foh you figah out all dese heah flies are a followerin' us like day is?"

"Dem ain't flies, black boy, dem's buck shot."

253

THE REMAINS

A colored man died without medical attendance, and the coroner went to investigate.

"Did Samuel Williams live here?" he asked the weeping woman who opened the door.

"Yassuh," she replied between sobs.

"I want to see the remains."

"I is de remains," she answered proudly.

254 A GOLDEN WEDDING

Uncle Eph'm had put on a clean collar and his best coat, and was walking majestically up and down the street.

"Aren't you working today, uncle?" asked one of his acquaintances.

"No, suh. I'se celebratin' my golden wedding, suh."

"You were married fifty years ago today?"

"Yes, suh."

"Well, why isn't your wife helping you to celebrate it?"

"My present wife, suh," replied Uncle Eph'm, with dignity, "ain't got nothin' to do with it. She's de foth."

255 SHORT OF LINEN

A weary guest at a small and not very clean country inn was repeatedly called, the morning after his arrival, by the colored man-of-all work.

"See here," he finally burst forth, "how many times have I told you I don't want to be called? I want to sleep!"

"I know, suh, but dey've got to hab de sheets, anyhow. It's almos' eight o'clock, an' dey's waitin' fo de tableclof."

256 NO DIFFERENTIAL

A colored "gent" took out a marriage license. A few days later he asked the clerk to substitute another woman's name for the one on the license, as he had changed his mind. He was told it would cost him another dollar and a half.

"You mean I got to get a new license?"

"Yes," said the clerk.

The applicant replied with an air of determination, "Never mind, boss, this ol' one will do. Dar ain't no dollah an' a half difference 'tween dem two, nohow."

257 HE DIDN'T MIND MOSQUITOES

Traveling in the South one summer lately, a Philadelphia man looked up a friend of his college days who lived in the South Carolina lowlands. He had written ahead to announce his coming, and was received by the Carolina man's aged negro servant, who greeted him with—

"Yes, sah, Marse M—— from Philadelphia, sah. Marse George he done expec' you, sah, an' tole me to tell you to make yo'sef to home, sah. He'll be back in de mawnin,' sah."

That night the Northern man had an unending fight with the mosquitoes. Unrested and irritated he came to breakfast in the morning, and, meeting the old negro, querulously asked:

"Sam, how in the deuce does Master George manage to exist in this mosquito hole?"

"Well, sah," was the reply, "you see, sah, Marse George he only home nights when he home at all. When he come home nights, he so darn 'toxicated he doan' care a cuss fer the skeeters, an' in the mawnin', when he gets up, the skeeters are so darn 'toxicated they doan' care a cuss fer Marse George!"

258 THE CHICKEN TALKS

A Southerner, hearing a great commotion in his chicken-house one dark night, took his revolver and went to investigate.

"Who's there?" he sternly demanded, opening the door.

No answer.

"Who's there? Answer, or I'll shoot!"

A trembling voice from the farthest corner:

"'Deed, sah, dey ain't nobody hyah 'ceptin' us chickens."

259 IN NOTHING, FLAT

A guest in a Cincinnati hotel was shot and killed. The negro porter who heard the shooting was a witness at the trial.

"How many shots did you hear?" asked the lawyer.

"Two shots, sah," he replied.

"How far apart were they?"

"'Bout like this way," exclaimed the negro, clapping his hands with an interval of about a second between them.

"Where were you when the first shot was fired?"

"Shinin' a genman's shoe in de basement of de hotel."

"Where were you when the second shot was fired?"

"Ah was passing de Big Fo' Depot."

260 WHAT'S IN A WORD?

"Rastus, who is that solvent looking gentleman speculatin' up and down the aisles wid the gold obstacles?"

"Don't you organize him?"

"No I don't organize him." I've never been induced to him."

"T'ze franchised you don't organize him. He is the most confiscated man in our whole diaphragm. He's the new pasture at our church."

261 MARRED, NOT MARRIED

Rastus was looking for work and the employer was asking him the usual questions.

"What's your name?"

"Erastus Jackson, suh."

"How old are you?"

"Ah is twenty-nine yeahs, suh."

"Are you married?"

"No, suh. Dat scar on ma head is where a mule done kicked me."

262 THAT HOMING INSTINCT

A colored man was leading against the fence in front of his home, his face a picture of misery. A white friend of his happened by.

What's the matter, Sam, he asked. "Never saw you look so gloomy."

"Ah's had de toughest luck," mourned Sam. "Somebody opened de do to mah hen-house an' all de chickens done flew de coop."

"Oh, don't let that worry you. You know the old saying that chickens will come home to roost."

"Yassuh, dat's de trouble. Dem chickens ain't coming home—dey's went!"

263 HE NEEDS STRENGTHENING

When the Reverend Brown glanced out over the heads of his congregation one Sunday morning, he was surprised to see Mose among those present. After the service, he approached the aged colored man and said:

"Mose, Ah shuah am glad to see yoh heah dis mawnin', but, how come? Yoh-all ain' been tendin' so reglah befoh."

"Well," said Uncle Mose, "Ah needs strengthenin' Ah does. Termorror Oh's got a job white-washin' a chicken coop an' buildin' a fence around a watermelon patch!"

Old Maids and Bachelors**264 APPEARANCE FIRST**

Young lady: "Which would you prefer in your future husband, wealth, ability, or appearance?"

Lady not so young: "Appearance, my dear; but he's got to appear pretty soon."

265 STALE BAIT

An old man was talking to a bachelor and asked him why he did

not marry. He parried the question by telling about different young women he had known, finding some fault with each one. But it appeared that all of them had married.

"You are in danger of getting left," said the old man to him. "You had better hurry up before it is too late."

"Oh," said the bachelor, "there are just as many good fish left in the sea."

"I know that," replied the old man, "but the bait—isn't there danger of the bait becoming stale?"

266 WILFUL DISREGARD OF PROVIDENCE

People who marry always hear good wishes, congratulations and other pleasant remarks, but they miss much in not hearing the repressed sentiments which burst forth to others. Thus, a lady who had received a wedding announcement from a friend, exclaimed in tones of disgust:

"What a wilful disregard of the manifestations of Providence, when she was so plainly intended for an old maid!"

267 HOW GRANDMA VIEWED THEM

"I'm glad Billy had the sense to marry a settled old maid," said Grandma Winkrum at the wedding.

"Why, grandma?" asked the son.

"Well gals is hity-tity, and widders is kinder overrulin' and up-settin'. But old maids is thankful and willin' to please."

268 HUSBANDS TO BURN

Chauncy M. Depew is responsible for the yarn about a widow and an old maid.

The former had just buried her third husband, and the spinster called to condole.

"Just think of it," she reflected, regretfully, "all my life I've been trying to get a man, while you've had husbands to burn! Blessings are certainly very unevenly distributed in this world."

Parents

269 HER PUNISHMENT

Dora had been a bad girl, and her mother decided that a lecture would do a great deal of good. Accordingly, she called her daughter to one side and the lecture took place.

"Dora," admonished the girl's mother, "you must stop this abominable flirting. Remember, you'll be punished in the end!"

"But, mother," protested the girl. "I have heard that you flirted yourself, and you've never been punished."

The elder woman frowned.

"Child," she returned with great solemnity, "some day I want you to make a close study of your father."

270 MIGHT BE HIS FATHER

"Now, Charlie, don't you admire my new silk dress?" asked a fond mother of her little boy.

"Yes, mamma; it is beautiful," replied Charlie.

"And, Charlie, all the silk is provided for us by a poor worm."

"You mean papa, don't you, mamma?" asked Charlie.

271 NOT SO BAD

"Look at that now," said the proud young father, holding up his new-born son for admiration, "isn't he a beauty? Everybody says he's just the picture of me!"

"Oh, I wouldn't worry much about that," said the friend, "so long as he's healthy."

272

OH!

Mr. Goodfellow had dined out six nights in succession. On the seventh night he turned up at home for the evening meal. When he was seated Mrs. Goodfellow rose in her seat and, addressing the other occupants of the table, said:

"Children, we have with us tonight a guest of whom you have all heard, even if you do not personally know him. He is a man who has a reputation for conviviality and cheer in every club and restaurant in the city, and this evening we are to have the honour and pleasure of being numbered among the admirers of this brilliant and entertaining qualities. Therefore, it is with the greatest pleasure that I present to you—your father!"

273

DAD'S STORY

Five-year-old Arthur awoke at 3 o'clock in the morning.

"Tell me a story, mother," he begged.

"Quiet, dear," replied his mother. "Daddy will be in soon and tell us both one."

274

WELL HOOKED

Father—"Isn't that young man rather fast?"

Daughter—"Yes; but I don't think he'll get away."

Political

275

THE WARY CANDIDATE

"Now, Mr. Blank," said a temperance advocate to a candidate for municipal honors, "I want to ask you a question. Do you ever take alcoholic drinks?"

"Before I answer the question," responded the wary candidate, "I want to know whether it is put as an inquiry or as an invitation!"

276

AGREEABLE TO HIM

A Western governor had lost one of his colonels and there was an unseemly scramble for the office, despite the fact that the colonel's body was awaiting burial. One of the ambitious candidates went so far as to call upon the executive and ask: "Governor, have you any objection to my taking Colonel Smith's place?"

"No," the governor replied complacently. "I have no objection if the undertaker is willing."

277

BEFORE THE SPLASH

It was election day. The candidate was making a tour of the polling booths, and the reports of his supporters were encouraging. When he emerged from one he found a huge crowd awaiting him, and they immediately raised him shoulder high.

"It's very good of you," said the delighted candidate, "but really I would prefer to walk to my car."

"Car!" roared the crowd. "Why, man, you're for the canal."

278

A MEAN DIG

At the christening of Alderman Blacks baby boy, everybody present was complimenting the little fellow. "I believe he is going to make a great politician some day," declared the fond mamma.

"Why?" some one asked.

"Because he crawls out of everything so easily," replied mamma, smiling slyly at her husband.

279

HE DEMANDED A RECOUNT

A certain politician recently became a parent. On announcing the news the doctor exclaimed gleefully: "I congratulate you, sir; you are the father of triplets." The politician was astonished. "No, no, no," he replied with more than Parliamentary emphasis; "there must be some mistake in the returns. I demand a recount."

280

WANTED THE PRIZE

A prominent Chicago politician, when a candidate for an important municipal office, related the following story of his campaign:

"Once I told three negroes that I'd give a big turkey to the one who'd give the best reason for his being a Republican.

"The first one said: 'I'se a 'publican kase de 'publican set us niggers free.'

" 'Very good, Pete,' said I. 'Now, Bill, let me hear from you.'

" 'Well, I'se a 'publican kase dey don' gib us a pective tariff.'

" 'Fine!' I exclaimed. 'Now, Sam, what have you to say?'

" 'Boss,' said Sam, scratching his head and shifting from one foot to the other, 'boss, I'se a 'publican kase I wants dat turkey.'

"And he got it."

281

POLITICS

"Pop?"

"Well, Junior——"

"Are 'politics' plural?"

"No, my boy, there isn't anything in the world more singular than politics."

282

FAMILY TRADITIONS

A political worker was interviewing a hidebound partisan, and asked him why he was so firm in his allegiance to the liberal party.

"Sir," said the old fellow, "my great-grandfather was a liberal, my grandfather was a liberal, my father was a liberal, and I will remain a liberal to the end of my days."

"I admire your devotion to principle," said the canvasser, "but tell me, why do you allow your house to be so run down, and covered with spiderwebs and dust?"

"Sir," replied the owner, "this house has been as you see it since my great-grandfather, my grandfather, and my father have lived in it; and I am not going to change it in any way."

"Tell me," said his inquisitor, "to change the subject, why you are an old bachelor?"

"Sir," replied the now aroused stickler for old ways, "my great-grandfather was a bachelor, my grandfather was a bachelor, my father was a bachelor, and I will never get married, either!"

283

TOO CORRUPT FOR HIM

After very closely contested election a dorky told how a Republican worker had come to him and said—

"See here, Sam, you got four sons that can vote, and your vote will make five. Now, you all vote the Republican ticket, and here are eleven dollars, for you."

"All right, boss," said Sam with a grin, taking the money. "We'll all be on han', suah."

Then the Democratic heeler found Sam and said "Sam you and your boys all vote the Democratic ticket and here are seven dollars for you. But mind you, you be on hand."

"Yass, sah," said Sam as he pocketed the boodle, "we'll vote all right, Cunnel."

After the election, being asked how he had voted, he said he had voted the Democratic ticket.

"But," said the other, "didn't the Republicans give you eleven dollars to vote their way while the Democrats gave you only seven? You ought to have voted for the party that gave you the most money."

"No, sah," said Sam. "You see, de Publicans offer de mos' money, an' dey is de mos' corrupter. I votes for de least corrupter."

Prohibition

284

ANYWAY TO GET IT

As a train pulled into a small, country town, a wild-eyed man stuck his head from one of the car windows and called to a group of natives standing on the platform.

"Have any of you gents a little whiskey upon you? A lady in the car has just fainted."

One of the men slowly drew from an inside pocket a half-pint bottle, and passed it up to the man in the car window.

That gentleman, instead of passing it on to the lady in the car, tipped it to his own lips and drained it dry. Handing the empty bottle back to the man on the platform, he remarked, as the train pulled out:

"It always did make me nervous to see a lady faint!"

285

STRONG DRINK

A Missouri man was in Wyoming. He was telling a cowboy of the potency of Missouri Whiskey.

"It don't compare to ours," said the cowboy.

But the man from Missouri stated what state he was from and that he desired to be shown. The cowboy pointed to two glasses on the table.

The man from Missouri took one, swallowed the contents, and came to life again a half hour later.

"That sure was strong stuff," he admitted. "It beats our Missouri whiskey all hollow!"

"Whiskey!" exclaimed the cowboy. "That wasn't whiskey! That was the chaser."

286

TEMPTATION

"Yes I knew it as soon as my hand touched her neck."

"Then why didn't you remove your hand?"

"I knew I was doing wrong but still I just didn't have the will power to resist."

"Well you can't help it now."

"My nerves tingled at the touch and I could feel the hot spirit that burned within her."

"So that's how you fell for it?"

"Before I knew it I had her mouth to mine——"

"And then?"

"The next thing I realized——"

"Go on."

"The next thing I realized I was dog drunk from drinking the bottle dry."

287

A NEW DISEASE

Two married men met in the first row at a burlesque show.

"Say, Jake," said the first married man, "how is your wife?"

"I'm surprised," Jake answered. "Didn't you hear about it? She died last week."

"Is that so? What did she die of?"

"Politeness."

"I never heard of that disease. What it it?"

"Well, it's this way. When I was a little boy, I was brought up to be very polite. My parents told me that ladies should always come first. And when I got married, I retained my good manners. When we sat at the table, I always served my wife first. When

we got on a street car, I always let her sit down first. When it came to buying clothes. I always bought her stuff first."

"You certainly were a perfect gentleman. I don't see how she could have died of politeness."

"Well she did. I bought some stuff from a strange bootlegger. And I let her taste it first."

288

BARBERISM

A priest went to a barber shop conducted by one of his Irish parishioners to get a shave. He observed the barber was suffering from a recent celebration, but decided to take a chance. In a few moments the barber's razor had nicked the father's cheek. "There, Pat, you have cut me," said the priest as he raised his hand and caressed the wound. "Yis, y'r riv'rance," answered the barber. "That shows you," continued the priest, in a tone of censure, "what the use of liquor will do." "Yis, y'r riv'rance," replied the barber, humbly, "it makes the skin tender."

289

NO COME BACK

A revenue officer called at cabin of a Kentucky moonshiner, and asked to see the man of the house.

"He ain't here," answered a youngster, who was playing in the dooryard.

"Where is he?" asked the officer.

"He's back thar in them mountains a-tendin' 'still," pipped the youngster.

"Well," said the officer, "I'll just leave my car here and walk back and see him. Watch the car till I get back."

"Stranger," said the kid, significantly, "You ain't a-comin' back!"

290

REAL TEA

It happened in a certain prohibition town in Kansas. When the long Pullman train drew into the station on a hot day in August, all the car windows open to catch a breath of air, an innocent looking little man appeared around the corner of the station, carrying a basket on his arm. Hurrying to the open window of the smoker, he deftly exhibited a very interesting looking black quart bottle which he had taken from the basket, and with a knowing wink said—

"Any of you gents like to buy a bottle of nice ice-cold tea?" He found a ready sale for every bottle in the basket at a dollar a bottle, but concluded each sale with, "Better wait till the train has pulled out before you take a drink. Prohibition here, you know, and don't want any trouble."

The train pulled out, and the man was making off, when an observant bystander asked him why he had requested the purchasers to wait till the train had started before taking a drink. "Because," said he with a sly prohibition wink, "because them bottles contained all good ice-cold tea."

291

GOOD STUFF

"Oh say, can you see by the dawns' early light?"

"Yes."

"Thank God! That whiskey wasn't poisoned after all."

Religious

292

LAYING EGGS

One of our neighboring churches resolved to raise a fund to send out a few more missionaries and asked all the members of the congregation to bring at least one dozen fresh eggs to the church on a certain Sunday. Deacon Miller was in charge of the affair and on the agreed Sabbath morning arose very sanctimoniously from his pew and took his place in the pulpit. There were no male members

present that morning. "You may now come forward," said the Deacon, addressing the ladies, "and lay your eggs in the basket."

293 AN ECCLESIASTICAL COMFORTER

Being the first Bishop of New Zealand left England, Sydney Smith, in taking leave, affected to impress upon his friend the dangers of his mission:

"You will find," he said, "in preaching to the cannibals, that their attention, instead of being occupied by the spirit, will be concentrated on the flesh; for I am told that they never breakfast without a cold missionary on the sideboard."

In shaking hands with the new prelate, as he was leaving the house, Smith added: "Good-bye. We shall never meet again; but let us hope that you may thoroughly disagree with the savage that eats you."

294 WHEN THE DEACON NAPPED

"Deacon White," said Parson Jackson softly, "will you lead us in prayer?"

There was no answer.

"Deacon White," this time a little louder, "will you lead?"

Still no response. Evidently the deacon was slumbering. Parson Jackson made a third appeal and raised his voice to a high pitch that succeeded in arousing the drowsy man. "Deacon White, will you lead?"

The deacon in bewilderment rubbed his heavy eyes and blurted:

"Lead yourself, I just dealt."

295 ENEMIES

John is a small boy, youngest of a minister's family. As a punishment for some misdemeanor at the table it was decided that he must not eat with the family at the next meal. So his dinner was placed on a small table at the end of the dining room. When all were seated the minister said, "Now, John, you should ask a blessing before you eat." This was a new duty for John, but he bowed his head and said, reverently:

"Our Father in Heaven: Thou hast prepared a table for me in the presence of mine enemies. Amen."

296 FOUND HIMSELF

An Irish preacher, wishing to show his congregation to what depth a prodigal son sinks, gave the following illustration:

"A lad left home with good intentions, but evidently got into bad company. He eventually had to pawn his overcoat to raise money to keep himself. Later, his coat and waistcoat had to go the same way. Again he needed money, and was forced to pawn his trousers, and likewise his shirt and vest. Then he came to himself."

297 SLIGHTED

A mother, anxious to impress upon the mind of her little boy the sufferings undergone by Christians for the sake of their faith, took him to see a painting of martyrs being cast to the lions. The scene was realistic, portrayed with all the skill of a master, and it proved too much for the child. He burst into tears. The mother, feeling that she had worked on his sympathies too much, tried to assuage his grief, but he refused to be comforted.

"Mama, mama," he sobbed convulsively, pointing to the picture, "there's a poor little lion over there in the corner that ain't gettin' any! Boo-hoo! Boo-hoo!"

298 CONSOLING

There is an evangelist in Boston who is so very devout, so his

friends aver, that he scarcely ever permits himself a secular thought or his tongue a worldly word.

It appears that this evangelist has a very bright daughter, aged five. Not long since, she answered the door-bell, and found there the ice-man with a bill.

"Father is not home," she said, "but if you will come in, you poor, perishing soul, perhaps mamma will pray for you."

299

LOGICAL

It is related that two Presbyterians, two Baptists, two Universalists and an active Jew recently met and discussed theology together without quarreling in Boston. The reason they did not quarrel in Boston was because they were in New York.

300

MORE BENEFICIAL

The story is told of Mr. Gladstone whispering to his wife one morning in church during the delivery of a sermon.

"I can't hear what the preacher's saying."

"Well, never mind, dear," answered Mrs. Gladstone. Just go to sleep. It will do you more good."

301

DOUBTFUL ASSURANCES

"Do you think they approved of my sermon?" asked the newly-appointed rector, hopeful that he had made a good impression.

"Yes, I think so," replied his wife; "they are all nodding."

302

NEARSIGHTED

The Reverend Mr. Smith was passing a creek when he saw several flashes of white. He removed his glasses, rubbed them, and looked again. Then he saw what he thought were some girls in swimming in their birthday clothes, but he wasn't quite sure. He moved up still closer where he could see better, but still not very clearly. His glasses had never suited him exactly, anyway.

"My, my," he sighed, "such awful spectacles."

303

A REMINDER

In the early days of Methodism in Scotland a certain congregation, in which there was but one rich man, desired to build a new chapel. A church meeting was held. The rich old Scotchman rose and said, "Brethern, we dinna need a new chapel: I'll give five pounds for repairs." Just then a bit of plaster fell from the ceiling and hit him on the head. Looking up and seeing how bad it was, he said, "Brethern, it's worse than I thought. I'll make it fifty pounds." "O Lord!" exclaimed a devoted brother on a back seat, "hit 'im again."

304

LOVED HIMSELF

Sydney Smith once entering a drawing-room alone, in a fashionable mansion in the West End of London, found it lined with mirrors on all four sides. Finding himself reflected in every direction, he remarked—"Ah, I see. There appears to be a meeting of the clergy here, and there seems to be a very respectable attendance!"

305

A BOY'S GRACE

A farmer's boy had just been confirmed in the country church one Sunday morning. The service was long, and the boy had three miles to walk home where he arrived very hungry and impatient for his dinner. As the family sat down to the table his father said, "John, you say Grace." And John said, "Why, father! I never did such a thing. I don't know how. You know I was only confirmed today." "Well," said his father, "it is a good time to begin. You can't begin any younger. Go on and say the Grace."

So John piously folded his hands, closed his eyes, bowed his head and said, "O Lord—have mercy on these vittals. Amen!"

306

MINISTERIAL REPORTEE

Father Kelly and Rabbi Cohen were the best of friends. They were guests at a banquet one evening at which ham was served. Father Kelly smilingly whispered to Rabbi Cohen:

"Rabbi, when are you going to lay aside that old stuff and eat ham?"

The Rabbi smiled back and whispered, "At your wedding, Father Kelly."

307

NON-COMMITTAL

Clinging desperately to their small raft, two shipwrecked sailors were tossing hither and yon on the wild, wild waves. One of them finally weakened, and, in trembling accents, started to pray: "O Lord, I know I have broken most of the commandments, and have done things that were wrong, but if I am spared I will—" At this point he was interrupted by a violent shaking as his mate shouted in his ear, "Hold on a minute, mate, don't commit yourself. I think I see land."

307

HELPING HIS FATHER

A preacher, raising his eyes from his desk in the midst of his sermon, was paralyzed with amazement to see his rude boy in the gallery pelting the hearers in the pews below with horse-chestnuts. But while the good man was preparing a frown of reproof, the young hopeful cried out: "You tend to your preaching, daddy; I'll keep 'em awake."

309

TIT FOR TAT

We have heard of a minister who, when the anthem had concluded, rose and commenced reading Acts XX: "And after the uproar was ceased." That is a story on the side of the pulpit. We are favored with the following on the side of the choir. The minister finished his discourse and sat down, and the choir rose and sang, "It is time to awake from sleep."

310

VICE VERSA

During sermon on Sunday a baby began to cry, and its mother carried it toward the door.

"Stop!" said the minister, "the baby is not disturbing me."

To which the mother caustically replied, "Oh, 'e ain't ain't 'e? Well you're disturbin' 'im!"

311

HARD LUCK

A minister in a small town thus addressed his congregation one Sunday morning: "You don't love me, because you don't pay my salary. You don't love one another, because there are no weddings. And God doesn't seem to want you, because nobody dies. Now, Brotheren, as I have been appointed Chaplain to the Penitentiary, this will be my last Sunday among you, and I will ask the choir to sing, "Meet me there."

312

ALL PEACEFUL NOW

The minister had been away for some time, having undergone an operation for appendicitis, and his assistant, after announcing his safe recovery after service one Sunday, added:

"We will conclude by singing the hymn 'Peace, Perfect Peace,' in the appendix."

313

EARLY MARRIED LIFE

"My dear," inquired Field Marshall Uriah, "are you and this King David on anything more than speaking acquaintance terms?"

"No, darling," replied Mrs. Uriah. "I have but danced the Charleston with him five times."

"You must pardon me for asking, dearie," said Uriah, "but I notice that, in his plan of the coming battle with the danged Phillistines, I'm

located right in front of their ranks, machine guns and gas engines."

This incident shows how, in ancient days, domestic harmony was preserved by the mutual confidence of husband and wife. It can be done today.

314

ABSOLVED

A kleptomaniac once went to a cure to confess his sins, and while he was enumerating them, he managed to steal the priest's watch. Continuing with his confession he said:

"Father, besides all that, I stole someone's watch and the crime weighs very heavily on my conscience. I don't want to keep this watch any longer and I beg you to take it to put an end to my remorse."

"But I don't accept any stolen objects," replied the good man. "Just return it to the rightful owner."

"I have already tried, but he won't accept it," replied the culprit.

"Did you ask him?"

"Yes, father?"

"Well," said the cure, "if he really doesn't want to take back his watch, you can keep it quietly without any remorse."

315

A DOG'S GOOD SERVICES.

On one occasion the minister delivered a sermon of but ten minutes' duration—a most unusual thing for him.

Upon the conclusion of his remarks he added: "I regret to inform you, brethren, that my dog, who appears to be peculiarly fond of paper, this morning ate that portion of my sermon that I have not delivered. Let us pray."

After the service the clergyman was met at the door by a man who, as a rule, attended divine service in another parish. Shaking the good man by the hand he said:

"Doctor, I should like to know whether that dog of yours has any pups. If so, I want to get one to give to my minister."

316

ABSENTMINDED

But the most utterly absent-minded man ever heard of was a certain Methodist minister. He served several churches in the country, riding to his preaching points on horseback. One Sunday morning he went out to his stable to saddle his horse and go preach, but, being very absent-minded and very much absorbed in his sermon, he made but little progress in saddling his horse. He fussed about in the stable for a full half-hour not knowing what was the matter, that he couldn't get started, and at length, coming to his senses he found that instead of saddling his horse he had saddled himself, and had spent a whole half-hour vainly endeavoring to climb up on his own back!

317

THEN THEY REMEMBERED

"Now, children," said the visiting minister who had been asked to question the Sunday School, "with what did Samson arm himself to fight against the Phillistines?"

None of the children could tell him.

"Oh, yes, you know!" he said, and to help them he tapped his jaw with one finger. "What is this?" he asked.

This jogged their memories, and the class cried in chorus: "The jawbone of an ass."

318

SEPARATING THE SHEEP

The soldiers marched to the church and halted in the square outside. There was room only for about half the regiment.

"Sergeant," ordered the colonel, "tell the men who don't want to

go to church to fall out." A large number quickly availed themselves of the privilege.

"Now, sergeant," said the colonel, "dismiss all the men who did not fall out and march the others to church—they need it most."

Scotch

319

TAKING NO CHANCES

Sandy was bound for London, and at each stop he left his compartment and hurried into the station, to rush back to his seat again before the train started. After this had been repeated many times, a fellow passenger finally asked the reason. "It's because of my heart," explained the Scotchman. "The doctor says I may drop off at any time, and I'm buying my ticket from station to station."

320

DELAYED

A Scotch farmer had agreed to deliver twenty hens to the local market. Only nineteen, however, were sent, and it was almost evening before the twentieth bird was brought in by the farmer.

"Man," said the butcher, "you're late with this one."

"Aye," agreed the other, "but, ye see, she didna' lay until this afternoon."

321

MATCHFUL WAITING

"Oh yes, I had an excellent trip," said Saunders. "Two Scotchmen were sitting opposite me."

"How did you know they were Scotch?"

"They both took out their pipe at the same time. They filled them together, and each one waited patiently for the other to light a match."

"And what happened?"

"I took out my pipe and the two of them used my match."

322

SHOCKING

Doc Slaughter had just successfully operated on a Scotchman, so Old Man Wilson asked the doctor if he had any trouble rendering the patient unconscious.

"No," answered Doc, "all I did was show him the bill in advance."

323

LIVE GOLD

A Scotchman invited to a golden wedding was told that each guest would be expected to bring a golden present.

He took a gold fish.

324

IN AND OUT

A visitor to a city in Scotland was surprised to find the streets deserted and inquired as to the reason.

"Tag day," was the reply.

Two weeks later the visitor returned and this time the streets were jammed solidly with people.

"The tag day was a failure," it was explained, "so today they're conducting a house-to-house canvass."

325

SCOTCH

"So Bess married a Scotchman. How does he treat her?"

"Reluctantly."

326

BONE OF CONTENTION

For years there had been a bitter feud between MacGregor and MacTavish, but at last McGregor decided that it was time to bury the hatchet.

So he approached MacTavish, and they shook hands and made peace. Then MacGregor suggested a drink.

"An' noo," quoth he, as they reached the village hostelry, "what'll ye hae?"

"A double whiskey."

"There ye go. Startin' the row all over again!"

327 THERE WERE OTHERS

A Scotchman thought that the best method of saving money for Christmas was to put a penny in a money-box every time he kissed his wife.

This he did regularly until the holiday period came round. Then he opened the box, and out came, not only pennies, but sixpences, shillings and half-crowns.

The man was amazed, and asked his wife how she accounted for it.

"Weel, Jock," she replied, "it's no ivery mon that's as stingy as you are!"

328 ECONOMY

Roddy had attended a performance by a famous illusionist.

The illusionist, during one part of his performance, put a woman in a cabinet, closed the doors, locked them, and then, after a few seconds' pause, opened them again. The woman had disappeared, and in her place was a parrot!

Immediately after the performance Roddy asked the illusionist:

"Mon, could ye do that trick if ma wife was put in your box?"

The illusionist laughed. "So you want to get rid of your wife, do you?"

"Well," said Roddy, "it's not so much that, ye ken, but I promised the bairn a parrot for his birthday."

329 THE WATCHWORD IS ECONOMY

It was known that McSpriggins, the village tightwad, kept his money in an old sock.

"I should think, remarked one of his neighbors, "that a careful man like you would keep his money in a bank rather than entrust it to a worn out sock."

"What!" gasped McSpriggins. "An' let the sock go to waste?"

330 IT WAS THE OTHER PLACE

There was once a prominent Glasgow man who had a very exalted opinion of that city. His end came. Reaching his eternal home, he looked about him in surprise, and yet as though he had seen the same kind of thing before. "Really," he exclaimed to him who had opened the gate for him, "this does great credit to Glasgow. I expected some change in heaven." The attendant eyed the new-comer a second, and then severely observed: "This is not heaven."

331 THE CLOSEST RACE

An Englishman, a Scotchman and an Irishman were indulging in reminiscences of sporting occasions. "The closet race I ever saw was a yacht race," said the Englishman, "in which one of the boats, which had been recently painted, won by the breadth of a coat of paint." "The closest I ever saw," declared the Scotchman, "was one in which a horse, stung by a bee, won by the height of the swelling on his nose." "The closest race I ever saw," said the Irishman, "is the Scotch."

Servants

332 QUOTING AUTHORITY

Mary the housemaid was being discharged. However, she wasn't leaving without some back-fire.

"Well, madame, I know why I'm being fired; it's because, I'm told, I'm prettier than you are."

"Who told you that?"

"Your husband; and what's more I'm told I'm smarter than you are."

"And who told you that?"

"Your husband; and besides, I'm told I know better how to kiss than you do."

"Did my husband say that to you?"

"No, ma'am, it was the chauffeur who told me that."

333 GOT IT WARM

When the thermometer dropped below zero Mrs. Rogers was much disturbed by the thought that Huldah, the new kitchen maid, slept in an unheated room.

"Huldah," she said, remembering the good old custom of her girlhood, "it's going to be pretty cold tonight. I think you had better take a flatiron to bed with you."

"Yes, ma'am," assented Huldah without enthusiasm.

Mrs. Rogers, happy in the belief that her maid was comfortable, slept soundly. In the morning she visited the kitchen.

"Well, Huldah, how did you get along with the flatiron?"

Huldah breathed a deep sigh of recollection.

"Vell, ma'am, I got it most warm before morning."

334 TOO LATE

An English gentleman of a generation ago was going out in his carriage, accompanied by his wife, to make some calls. Discovering that they were without visiting cards, he ordered his new footman to go the mantelpiece in the sitting-room and bring the cards he should see here. The latter did as he was ordered, retained the articles to be used as he was directed, and off they started.

Whenever a "not at home" occurred the footman was sent in with cards. Toward the end of the drive the gentleman turned to the servant with the question: "How many cards have you left John?"

"Well, sir," said the footman, innocently, "there's the king of spades, the six of hearts, and the ace of clubs."

"The deuce!" exclaimed his master, thunderstruck.

"That's gone," said John."

335 COMFORTING

A rich man lying on his death bed, called his chauffeur who had been in his service for years, and said:

"Ah, Sykes, I am going on a long and rugged journey, worse than ever you drove me."

"Well, sir," consoled the chauffeur, "There's one comfort. It's all downhill."

336 ONE OR THE OTHER

"But why did you leave your last place?" the lady asked of the would-be cook.

"To tell the truth, mum, I just couldn't stand the way the master an' the missus used to quarrel, mum."

"Dear me! Do you mean to say that they actually used to quarrel?"

"Yis, mum, all the time. When it wasn't me and him, it was me an' her."

337 AS DIRECTED

Mrs. Exe was throwing a big feed that night and she was giving her new maid final instructions.

"And don't forget, Mary, that coffee is served after everything."

"Yes, ma'am, replied the girl, "I understand."

And during the dinner she served coffee after the soup, after the fish, after the meat, as well as after the dessert.

338

CAUTIOUS

Bridget was told to wash the windows. She washed them very carefully on the inside but entirely neglected to clean the outside. Her mistress asked her the reason of this omission, thinking perhaps she was too timid to sit out. Imagine the lady's surprise when Bridget exclaimed, "Sure, mum, I claned them inside so as we could look out, but lift the dirt on the outside so's the people couldn't look in."

Speakers

339

SAFE

A good story with which to begin an after dinner speech.

"Well," said Daniel, as he looked about among the hungry lions, "there's one consolation. If there's going to be any after dinner speaking, I won't be called on."

340

A LONG-DISTANCE LECTURE

A pretentious person recently said to a prominent resident of a New Jersey town: "How would a lecture by me on Mount Vesuvius suit the inhabitants of your town?"

"Very well, sir; very well indeed. A lecture by you on Mount Vesuvius, would suit them a great deal better than a lecture by you in this town."

341

EASY TO CARRY

Lecturer's Wife: "Well, John, back from your lecture trip at last? Did you carry your audiences with you?"

Lecturer: "No; but I could have done so. They were small enough."

342

ALDERMANIC TASTES

Freddy—"Papa, may I study elocution?"

Proud Father—"Indeed you may, my boy, if you wish. You desire to become a great speaker?" "Yes, that's it." "And some day, perhaps, have your voice ringing in the vaulted chambers of the first legislative assembly in the world." "I shouldn't care for that. I want to be an after-dinner speaker." "Ah, you are ambitious for social distinction, then?" "No, I want the dinners."

343

HER VERDICT

Mr. Sidener had made his first public speech and waited for his wife's verdict. He expected her to say: "Oh, it was simply great, Eddy;" but they were half-way home, and she had said nothing. "Well," he began awkwardly, "what did you think of my speech?" "What you said was all right," she answered with guarded enthusiasm, "but you didn't make the most of your opportunities." "Opportunities?" repeated Mr. Sidener. "What do you mean, Effie?" "Why," Mrs. Sidener replied, "you had ever so many chances to sit down before you did."

344

SUSPICION

Mark Twain at a dinner at the Authors' Club said: "Speaking of fresh eggs, I am reminded of the town of Squash. In my early lecturing days I went to Squash to lecture in Temperance Hall, arriving in the afternoon. The town seemed very poorly billed. I thought I'd find out if the people knew anything at all about what was in store for them. So I turned in at the general store. 'Good afternoon, friend,' I said to the general storekeeper. 'Any entertainment here tonight to help a stranger while away his evening?' The general storekeeper, who was sorting mackerel, straightened up, wiped his

briny hands on his apron, and said: "I expect there's goin' to be a lecture. I been sellin' eggs all day." "

345 WIND AND WATER

When a political stump speaker, from the wild and windy West, after a very high-falutin flight of oratory paused to gulp down two tumblers of ice-water, old Hayseed arose in one of the front benches and called out: "Well, I'll be durned if this hain't the fust time I ever see a windmill run by water."

Which goes well with what we read of a newly elected senator. He was pounding his desk and waving his arms in an impassioned appeal to the senate.

"What do you think of him?" whispered Senator K——, of New Jersey, to the impassive Senator K——, of Pennsylvania.

"Oh, he can't help it," answered K——. "It's a birth mark."

"A—what?"

"A birth mark," repeated K——. "His mother was scared by a windmill."

Sports

346 HIS HOLE

In Washington they tell the story of a golfing clergyman, beaten badly on the links by a parishioner thirty years his senior, returning to the clubhouse rather disgruntled.

"Cheer up," his opponent said, "Remember, you win at the finish. You'll probably be burying me some day."

"Even then," said the preacher, "it will be your hole."

347 IN A NUTSHELL

Golf—A two-and-a-half-mile hike cross-country with a five-pound load, in the attempt to knock a small ball into eighteen consecutive holes by eighteen faultlessly executed shots. Generally attended by failure.

Tennis—A struggle between two players, each equally intent on making the opponent drop dead through running to retrieve a bouncing ball forty feet to one side of him with no other instrument than a wooden frame enclosing the insides of a cat.

Wrestling—The application of scientific principles of weight, leverage, and momentum to human relationships, culminating in the successful effort of one mass of beef to induce another mass of beef to assume an uncomfortable horizontal position on a piece of matting, with the alternative of getting his neck broken.

Baseball—A game of chance.

348 NOT GUILTY!

The minister called one Sunday afternoon and little Willie answered the bell.

"Pa ain't home," he announced. "He went over to the golf club."

The minister's brow puckered and Willie hastened to explain:

"Oh, he ain't gonna play golf on Sunday. He just went over for a few highballs and a little game of stud poker."

349 ON THE WAY HOME

Quite recently a colonial gentleman went to St. Andrews for a holiday. He had a faint idea of how to play golf. Engaging a caddie, he proceeded to go round the course. When driving the first tee he knocked the ball about five yards, and after this he could not take a drive without lifting turf. His caddie became irritated, and said: "Hir, sir, whar did ye learn to play golf?" "In Australia," replied the crestfallen player. "Well, sir," quoth this modern Job's comforter, "if ye gang on in the way ye're darein' ye'll soon be hame."

350

OLDEST GAME

"They say checkers is the oldest game."

"Oh, no, poker is older. Didn't Noah draw pairs on the Ark, and get a full house when the world had a flush?"

351

FOR HOME PRACTICE

"Dear me!" remarked a golfer to his caddie, as he tore up about a square foot of velvety turf. "Whatever shall I do?" His concern was more for his own bad play than for the damage he was doing to the course.

"I think, sir, the best thing you can do is to tak' that chunk of turf home with you, and mak' a wee course for yourse,'l" was the caddie's sharp reply.

352

LOST OUT

It was on a Florida golf course, Mortimer, being home for the holidays, confronted a caddie.

"I've heard the fellows back at school talk a lot about this game of golf. Will you explain it to me?"

"Not much to it. Just hit the ball with this stick and try to knock it into that hole 'way over there with the flag in it. Try it."

Mortimer took the club handed him and with a mighty swing made a drive of three hundred and twenty yards. The ball came to a stop three inches from the hole.

"That's too bad," moaned Mortimer. "I missed it!"

353

THE TROUBLE

"My trouble is that I stand too close to my ball before I hit it."

"On the contrary, you stand too close to the ball after you hit it."

Traveling Salesmen

354

WHERE BAD GIRLS GO

"Darling, where do good little girls go?" asked a Molckow mother of her hopeful. "To heaven," replied the child. "And where do the bad little girls go?" asked the mother. "To the depot to see the traveling men come in."

355

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

Jimmy aged 7, was playing on the lawn with five little girls, ranging in age from five to eight years.

One of the little girls was Jimmy's play-wife, and while the child-wife was busy attending to her "household duties," Jimmy was playing about with first one and then another of the other little girls.

Jimmy's mother and two neighbor women were on the porch, watching the children at play. One of the women turned to Jimmy's mamma and said:

"Isn't Jimmy's behavior strange; he keeps playing with the other little girls, making love to each in turn, but he pays scarcely any attention to his little wife."

"Oh, I don't know," said Jimmy's mother; "It's not so strange. His daddy is a traveling man!"

356

KEEP COOL

A commercial traveller, during an extensive tour in the provinces, took his wife with him. Being exceedingly nervous about fires he frequently impressed on her the necessity of keeping a cool head should the danger occur. At one hotel they were staying at a fire actually broke out. The commercial traveller aroused his wife, assisted her to dress, and, to demonstrate the value of presence of mind, reached for his frock-coat and silk hat and umbrella, and accompanied his

wife into the street. There they watched the firemen in their work of subduing the flames.

"And now," remarked the husband to his wife, "you see the advantage of having a cool head."

"Yes, John," was the reply, "but you might have put on your trousers."

357 ANXIOUS MOMENTS

Sympathetic neighbor: "No doubt, you have many anxious moments, while your husband is away from home."

Traveling man's wife: "Yes, indeed! I never know when he will return suddenly."

357 THE ETERNAL TRIANGLE

Mary Jane and little Willie Brown were fixing up the shed so they could play house when in walked pesky Alfred from up the street. For a moment Mary Jane was at a loss as to how she could get rid of Alfred. Suddenly a bright idea came to her.

"Oh, I know what," she said, "Alfred can be my husband and Willie can be a gentleman friend who is calling on me." And then she added rather adroitly!

"Alfred, you're a traveling salesman, so you can go out on the road and play."

359 A PEWRICKEY

One night a couple of traveling salesmen arrived in a small Kansas town, and found the only hotel crowded. Not a room was to be had. "I hate to disaccommodate you, gents," said the hotel proprietor, "but even the pool table's occupied. But, say, see that old church across the street? I bought it to build a new hotel on the site. If you don't mind, you can go over there and sleep in the pews. They're upholstered, and they ain't bad sleepin' in at all."

The pair decided to try it. About one o'clock in the morning the hotel proprietor was awakened by the loud clanging of the church bell. He got up, roused the porter, and told him to hurry over to find out the trouble. In a few moments the porter came back. "Well?" asked the owner, excitedly. "Party in pew 26 wants a gin-rickey," was the answer.

Women

360 SOON TO WEAR 'EM

The Minneapolis rounder was patently corned as he described curves along the sidewalk and waved his arms to preserve what little was left of his balance. At length he overtook his companion, who was gazing at a sign that read, "Ladies Ready to Wear Clothes."

"Watchu lookin' at?"

"That sign."

"Whazzit say?"

"Ladies Ready to Wear Clothes."

"Damn near time, but let's sober up 'fore they start."

361 CORRECTED

"Yes, brethern," said the preacher in the course of the funeral sermon, "our deceased brother was cut down in a single night, torn from the arms of his loving wife, who is thus left a disconsolate widow at the early age of twenty-five years"—"Twenty-two, if you please," sobbed the widow in the front pew, from behind her handkerchief.

362 SHE KNEW

Weighing machines with phonographic attachments which announced your weight viva voce have been installed in several of the

department stores recently. The other day a fat woman weighed down with an armful of bundles stepped onto the platform, dropped in her cent and gazed attentively down the metallic funnel which was to call her weight.

"Two hundred and seven," announced the impassive weighing machine in stentorian tones that could be heard all over the store. The woman's face flushed, and leaning over the funnel she shouted back into it defiantly:

"And I say you're a liar."

363

THE PRACTICAL LADY

A reverend gentleman was shocked to meet, on a rainy day, an elderly woman who lifted her skirt over her head to protect her hat.

"Madam," he ventured to remonstrate, "you are exposing your person."

"That's all right parson," she returned cheerfully. "My person's old, but my hat's new."

334

TOO TINY

"I tell you I won't have this room," protested the old lady to the bell boy who was conducting her. "I ain't a-goin' to pay me good money for a pigsty with a measly little foldin' bed in it. If you think that jest because I'm from the country——"

Profoundly disgusted, the boy cut her short.

"Get in, mum. Get in," he ordered. "This ain't yer room. This is the elevator."

365 THE LADY WITH HOLES IN HER STOCKINGS

At a religious meeting a lady persevered in standing on a bench and thus intercepting the view of others, though repeatedly requested to sit down. A reverend old gentlemen at last rose and said gravely, "I think, if the lady knew that she had a large hole in each of her stockings, she would not exhibit them in this way." This had the desired effect—she immediately sunk down on her seat. A young minister standing by, blushed to the temples, and said, "O brother, how could you say what was not the fact?" "Not the fact!" replied the old gentleman, "if she had not a large hole in each of her stockings, I should like to know how she gets them on."

366

TWO TO ONE

Seated in a crowded traction car some time since was a very stout woman who weighed about 300 pounds, and beside her, squeezing into a space about three inches broad, was a messenger-boy—one of those very small, abused-looking boys.

The stout woman, after looking about the car for a while, noticed two young ladies standing near her, and, turning to the small boy beside her, said:

"Little boy, why don't you get up and let one of those young ladies sit down?"

"Why don't you get up and let 'em both sit down?" replied the boy, much to the amusement of the rest of the passengers.

367

BOUND TO WIN

Husband: "Where did you get that sideboard?"

Wife: "At an auction, for \$100."

Husband: "Awful. I could have bought the same thing for fifty dollars."

Wife: "Well, I wasn't going to let that woman across the way outbid me."

368

BUT SHE DIDN'T

"A woman can't keep a secret," declared the mere man.

"Oh, I don't know," retorted the fluttery lady. "I've kept my age a secret since I was twenty-four."

"Yes; but one of these days you will give it away. In time you will simply have to tell it."

"Well, I think that when a woman has kept a secret for twenty years she comes pretty near knowing how to keep it."

369

SHE HADN'T ENOUGH

A woman entered a photographer's gallery. "Do you take pictures of children?" she asked.

"Yes," was the reply.

"How much are they, please?"

"Three dollars a dozen," said the proprietor.

"Well," she replied with a sigh. "I shall have to wait and come again. I have only eleven."

370

IT WORKED BOTH WAYS

A pompous woman on a train journey with her son offered the ticket collector her own ticket and a half-fare one for her boy. Now the boy was a big fellow for his age, and the woman very small. The collector looked at the boy

"Madam," he said, "I can't pass this boy on half-fare. He's tall, and he's in long pants."

"Sir," said the woman. "If that be the basis of your decision, use the half-ticket for me."

371

CATTY

"Well, well! I haven't come across you in years. How you have aged, my dear."

"Is that so? I wouldn't have known you, either, except for that dress you are still wearing."

372

REASSERTING HIMSELF

"So this baby is a girl?" beamed the rector, as he walked 'round the baby show.

The proud father assented.

"And this other one—is it of the contrary sex?"

His wife's eye was on him, but with no thought of the wrath to come he replied, blithely, "Yes, she is a girl, too."

373

TOO MUCH TONGUE

An old lady of his flock once called upon Dr. Gill with a grievance, relates London Tit-Bits. The doctor's neckbands were too long for her ideas of ministerial humility, and after a long harangue on the sin of pride she intimated that she had brought a pair of scissors with her and would be pleased if her dear pastor would permit her to cut them down to her notions of propriety.

The doctor not only listened patiently, but handed over the offending white bands to be operated upon. When she had cut them to her satisfaction and returned the bibs, it was the doctor's turn.

"Now," said he, "you must do me a good turn also."

"Yes, that I will, doctor. What can it be?"

"Well, you have something about you which is a deal too long and which causes me no end of trouble, and I should like to see it shorter."

"Indeed, dear sir, I will not hesitate. What is it? Here are the scissors; use them as you please."

374

SOLVING THE PROBLEM

Madam Bethune occupied a telephone booth, and had been there for more than an hour, turning over the leaves of the directory.

A long line was already waiting outside, and still she did not leave it. At last one man lost patience, opened the door and asked politely:

"Pardon me, madam, but it seems to me you can't find what you are looking for in that book. May I help you?"

"Oh, thank you, sir," she said, "you are very kind. Tomorrow my little nephew will be baptized and I'm looking for a good name for him."

375 IN STYLE

A poor man who had hardly been able to supply his wife and family with the necessities of life received a substantial legacy.

"At last, my dear," he said to his wife, "you will be able to buy yourself some decent clothes."

"I'll do nothing of the kind," she said, "I'll get the same kind the other women wear."

376 WHILE HE WAITED

"Supposing you wait here in this comfortable seat by the elevator while I match these two samples of ribbon," said Mrs. Mayfair sweetly to her husband, who had been entrapped into going shopping with her. When she came back, she said contritely:

"Have I kept you waiting an unpardonably long time, you poor dear?"

"Oh, I haven't minded it," he said cheerfully. "I just jumped on a car and ran out to the league grounds and saw most of the ball-game, and then I took a little spin in the park with Dorton in his new auto. Did you match the samples?"

"One of them. It's so provoking. I'll have to come in again tomorrow, for they're closing the store now."

377 WHAT DO YOU THINK THE PORTER DID?

A lady in the center seat of the parlor car heard the request of a fellow-passenger directly opposite asking the porter to open the window, and, scenting a draft, she immediately drew a cloak about her.

"Porter, if that window is opened," she snapped testily, "I shall freeze to death."

"And if the window is kept closed," returned the other passenger, "I shall surely suffocate."

The poor porter stood absolutely puzzled between the two fires.

"Say, boss," he finally said to a commercial traveler seated nearby, "what would you do?"

"Do!" echoed the traveler. "Why, man, that is a very simple matter; open the window and freeze one lady. Then close it and suffocate the other."

Miscellaneous

378 TALKATIVE BIRD

A lady owned a parrot which was terribly addicted to swearing. Whenever he forgot himself his mistress would souse him with a pail of water as a punishment and a possible cure. One day a chicken fell into a rain barrel and was nearly drowned. The lady brought it into the house and placed it behind the stove to recover. Polly noticed its wet condition, and after eyeing it critically for a moment or two, piped:

"You've been swearing again, you poor sap, you."

379 "IN THE WAY THEY SHOULD GO"

Mrs. Hobbs was the parent of an infant terror and several half-grown terrors besides. One day at table she said, "Well, Mr. Hobbs, since you are so dissatisfied with the way I am bringing up our darling Willie, maybe you will condescend to inform me how you would bring up boys?"

"Certainly," said Hobbs. "Every boy ought to be kept in a hogs-

head, and fed through the bung-hole until he is twelve years of age."

"And when he reaches the age of twelve?"

"Stop up the bung-hole."

380

A GOOD USED CAR

Before buying a horse you look in his mouth.

Before buying a second-hand flivver look beside, behind and beneath the rear seat cushion. Should you find a couple of dainty handkerchiefs and a pair of dice, or a lipstick and half a package of cigarettes, or several assorted buttons and a vanity case, or a cheap bracelet and an empty bottle, by all means, buy the car.

Regradless of what the dealer says, you have sufficient proof that the car has been run but little.

381

NEEDED INTRODUCTION

At a country picnic a good-natured newspaper chap spoke rashly to a young lady without the formality of an introduction. There was occasion for it, for he happened to see a great, fat caterpillar crawling on her lace collar, and jumping toward her he said, "Madam, permit me to——" But the young lady waved him off with an imperious gesture and said: "How dare you speak to me without an introduction? You are certainly no gentleman, sir!" Here the caterpillar overbalanced itself and fell down her neck. "Ouch! Oh! Help! Take it off, somebody!" screamed the fair one. The newspaper man was the only somebody around just then, and he said: "Couldn't think of it, madam. I haven't been introduced to the caterpillar."

382

KEEN SENSE OF HUMOR

"A sense of humor is a help and a blessing through life," says Rear Admiral Buhler. "But even a sense of humor may exist in excess. I have in mind the case of a British soldier who was sentenced to be flogged. During the flogging he laughed continually. The harder the lash was laid on, the harder the soldier laughed.

"'Wot's so funny about bein' flogged?' demanded the sergeant.

"'Why,' the soldier chuckled, 'I'm the wrong man.'"

383

THE PENALTY FOR BIGAMY

One of the witticisms of Lord Russell of Killowen was his answer to a question from a distinguished counsel who asked what the heaviest penalty for bigamy was.

"Two mothers-in-law," said Russell promptly.

384

PUNCTURED

Gus, my tired hired man, went into one of those student barber shops on Washington Avenue, Minneapolis, the other day for a shave. When the young lather-splasher finished, Gus asked for a glass of water. "You're not going to faint, are you?" asked the barber. "No," replied Gus, "I just wanted to see if my mouth would hold water."

385

NO ONE ELSE DARED

"Who is there," cried the impassioned orator, "who will lift a voice against the truth of my statement?" Just then a donkey on the outskirts of the crowd gave vent to one of the piercing "hee-haws" of his tribe. The laugh was on the orator for a moment, but, assuming an air of triumph, he lifted his voice above the din to say:

"I knew nobody but a jackass would try it!"

386

"SECOND CHILDHOOD"

Two gentlemen were dining at a restaurant the other night. The "lamb" that they had ordered was particularly tough. Jones called the waiter. "What is this meat you have given us?" "Lamb, sir." "You are quite sure it's lamb, and not mutton?" "Oh, certainly, sir." "H'm! Oh, yes, I see. A case of second childhood, probably."

387

BREAKING IT GENTLY

"Good morning, Ivan, how goes it?"

"Not so hot; I got married since I last saw you."

"Good news, then."

"Not altogether. I married a terrible woman."

"That's too bad."

"Not exactly. She had heaps of money."

"Well, that's a comfort."

"Not absolutely, because I used her money to buy sheep and they all died."

"That's bad luck."

"Not so bad. I sold their skins and that brought me more than the original cost."

"In that case, are you happy?"

"Not precisely, because the house where I had my money burned."

"What a terrible misfortune!"

"Not so terrible, because my mother-in-law burned with it."

388

TO SAVE HER SOUL

It was pouring down rain and the clock on the steeple had just struck midnight when there came a timid ring on the front door bell. The mother hurried downstairs.

On the porch stood her daughter drenched to the skin, her bobbed hair lying in short wet ropes on her forehead. Cold, blue and shivering, the girl was crying pitifully.

"Where on earth have you been?" asked the mother opening the door.

"Walking," answered the girl.

"Walking," repeated the mother. "Walking how far?"

"Twenty miles," the girl whispered.

"For goodness sakes!" ejaculated the mother.

"Yes," sobbed the girl.

389

WHERE ELSE

"What we want," ranted the political speaker, "is men with convictions; and where shall we find them?"

"In jail!" shouted J. P. McHenry, with his usual ready wit.

390

HARD TASK

"I keep on reading about capital and labor, but I can never understand about it."

"But it's very simple. You give me ten duros; that's the capital."

"And the labor?"

"That's what you have getting it back from me."

391

POOR TRAINING

A man who was traveling to Dublin, found that his train was going exceedingly slow.

"Why doesn't the train go a little faster?" he asked the conductor.

"If you find that the train doesn't go fast enough for you, get out and walk!"

"I'd do it with pleasure, but some friends promised to meet me when the train comes in, and I don't want to have to wait for them two or three hours. at the station."

392

HIS AUDIENCE WOULD

The would-be comedian had just given a performance of his "turn" before the manager. "No," said the latter, "it won't do. I don't want any profanity in my theatre, my boy."

"But I don't use any profanity," gasped the astonished stage aspirant.

"No-o," was the reply, "but the audience would."

393 SHE COULDN'T BEAR HER GRIEF ALONE

Here is a Russian story. A young widow put up a costly monument to her late husband, and inscribed upon it, "My grief is so great that I cannot bear it." A year or so later, however, she married again, and feeling a little awkwardness about the inscription, she solved the difficulty by adding one word to it, "alone."

394 NO BETTER OFF

A lady who had been away on a visit, was expected home on the seven o'clock train. Her husband was waiting at the station when a telegram was handed to him: "Missed train; will start at the same time tomorrow. Margaret."

The husband was very logical; he immediately despatched a reply: "If you start at the same time tomorrow, you will miss your train again."

395 HALF TWINS

"Two Mormon boys went to school for the first time out in Utah," relates Congressman J. Adam Bede, "and the teacher asked them their names."

" 'John and William Smith,' the boys replied."

" 'Ah, then you are brothers! How old are you?'"

" 'Each ten years old, ma'am.'"

" 'Indeed! Then you are twins?'"

" 'Please, ma'am' replied one of the boys, 'only on our father's side.'"

396 MAN WANTS BUT LITTLE, ETC

"Please, mum," said a tramp, "would you be so kind as to let me have a needle and thread?"

"Well, y-e-s," said the housewife at the door, "I can let you have that."

"Thankee, mum. Now, you'd oblige me very much if you'd let me have a bit of cloth for a patch."

"Yes, here is some."

"Thankee very much, mum. It's a little different color from my suit, I see. Perhaps, mum, you could spare me some of your husband's old clothes that this patch will match."

"Well, I declare! You're clever, my man, and I'll give you an old suit. Here is one."

"Thankee greatly, mum. I see it's a little large, mum, but if you'll kindly furnish me with a square meal, mebbly I can fill it out."

397 WHO THREW THAT?

They tell the story of a famous actor who was often accustomed to show a great interest in the lesser lights about him. One day he was good-naturedly conversing with one of his stagehands. "And what, my man, is your vocation?" queried the condescending matinee idol.

"I'm a Baptist," was the reply.

"No, no, good fellow, that is your belief. I want to know your vocation. For example, I am an actor."

Said the scene shifter: "Naw, that's your belief."

398 OBITUARY

"The stranger from Texas was right smart of a poker player," related the old-timer, "but not quite good enough for these parts. I sets in a game one night with him an' Greasy Dick an' Cochetope Shorty. They comes a big pot with over six hundred dollars in it an' when it comes to a showdown Greasy Dick lays down a heart

flush, ace high; Shorty shows four sixes with a ace kickin' an' the stranger holds four aces."

"Whew! And what did you hold?"

"Me? Oh, I was the coroner an' I held the inquest."

399

INSTRUCTIONS FOLLOWED

A young actress rented a new apartment. Immediately all the tradesmen in the vicinity began calling. When she was tired of these attentions she called in Nancy, her colored maid.

"Nancy," she said, "I don't want to be bothered again by persons trying to sell us something. Tell them we have all of everything that we need. Now, remember."

Soon a strange gentleman appeared at the door and offered to demonstrate an exterminator.

"What is it for?" inquired Nancy.

"It's for cockroaches," said the man.

"Nothin' doin'," stated Nancy, we got all the cockroaches we wants."

400

AN INSPIRING TELEGRAM

On the first day that a young man began his duties as reporter on a popular paper a report came from a nearby town that there was a terrible fire raging. The editor of the paper immediately sent the new reporter to the place, and, upon arriving there, he found that the firemen were unable to get control of the fire, so he sent this telegram to the editor: "Fire still raging. What shall I do?" The editor thought for a minute, and then sent back this message: "Find out where the fire is the hottest and jump in."

401

NOT LIKELY!

The Fifth Avenue bus drew into the curb and stopped.

The conductor looked expectantly up the staircase, but no one descended, and finally he clambered up himself.

"Here," he remarked to a man in the back seat, "you want Central Park, don't yer?"

"Yes," returned the passenger, groping for his bag, "that's right."

"Well," retorted the angry conductor, "you'd better come down and get it. I can't bring it up for yer!"

402

DE-FEETED

Noah's ark, as we were all taught, was an immense menagerie where the male and female of each species found refuge during the flood.

One night just before retiring, the elephant started to shout at the top of his voice. Noah ran to him quickly.

"What's the matter?"

"I can't sleep," answered the elephant, "they're making so much noise upstairs that I don't get a minute's quiet."

Noah ran upstairs to see what was happening. He soon returned and announced:

"You must have a little patience, please, the centipede is taking his shoes off."

403

GREAT ADVANTAGE

Mother—"I hope, my son, that the girl you'll marry will be accomplished; that is, a young girl who'll know how to do things around the house for you."

Son—"Yes, mother. The one I'm keeping company with at present knows how to roll a cigarette better than I do."

404

ORDERS IS ORDERS

A rookie sentry at Fort Snelling was walking a post that terminated at the bank of the Mississippi River. Two young second

"looes" strolled to the water's edge and began to strip for a swim. The sentry stood watching them until one, having undressed, advanced to the water.

"Halt!" cried the sentry. "You can't swim here!"

"Then why didn't you tell us before we got our clothes off?" snapped a "loolie."

"My orders don't say nothin' about undressing," replied the sentry, *saluting*.

405 WHEREIN HE WAS MISUNDERSTOOD

There once was a lady who was old, but not too old to be witty. When Matthew Arnold returned to England from his lecture tour in America, he expected to be asked the usual question, his opinion of America. Instead, this lady, Mrs. Proctor, asked what was America's opinion of him. "Well," Arnold replied, "they said that my clothes didn't fit and that I was very conceited."

To which the lady made response: "Matthew, I think they were mistaken about the clothes."

406 TEMPTATION IN THE OFFICE

The boss of our office hired a new stenographer this morning. She is a beautiful thing of the latest flapper type. All the men in the office seem bewitched and captivated by her but, believe it or not, I haven't even given her a tumble.

Notwithstanding the fact that most of the day I have been talking to her and have been subjected to the waves of her hypnotic sex appeal, no single passionate thrill has surged through me

Many times during the day her soft white hand touched me—and her slightest touch is a caress—yet I entertained no thought of love or desire.

She has hovered near me continually, charging the air with a delightful, tingling something that I cannot explain, but I remained cold and unmoved. Often her pretty head was so near that an enchanting little ear touched me, yet my temperature did not rise the fraction of a degree.

You think I must be made of wood or metal and I will have to admit that you are right.

I am the dictaphone she uses.

407 EASY

"My goodness!" remarked the old gentleman, as he stopped the young lad with the fine catch of trout. "You've had a very successful day, young man. Where did you catch all those fish?"

"Just walk down that path marked 'Private,'" directed the boy; "cross the field with the notice board saying 'Beware of the Bull,' and keep right on till you come to a notice, 'Trespassing will be Prosecuted.' A few yards further there's a fine pool in the river marked 'No Fishing Allowed,' and there you are, sir!"

408 A NATURAL SCEPTIC

That is a good story of Zeb Smithers, out in the rural parts of Ohio, in the early days. Zeb came into town one day to see the circus. He had never been to a circus before, and he anticipated a grand time. Having paid the admission, he walked into the big tent, full of wonder as he looked around. The strange animals filled him with amazement. He admired the huge proportions of the elephant, the sleek coat of the zebra, the lions, tigers and all the rest—but when he came to the giraffe, he stopped, looked a long while, pushed his hat back on his head, spat on the ground and said, "Oh, H—l! Ther hain't no such animal!"

409

NOTHING DOING

Jenkins was one of those terrible creatures who wander about borrowing money from their friends.

On this particular occasion his usual victims had realized that it was about the time Jenkins would be looking for them, and one and all they sought refuge in unlikely spots.

But one man was caught.

"I say, old boy," began Jenkins, "I'm in a terrible fix. I want a few dollars rather badly, and I haven't the slightest idea where I'm going to get them."

"Glad to hear that," remarked the other genially "For a moment I thought you had an idea I could oblige!"

410

GREASED LIGHTNING

Brix—"I knew a man who was so fast that at night he could put out his light, jump into bed and fall asleep before his room became dark."

Trix—"Huh! I knew a man who could knock at his own door, run quickly to the back of the house, and open the door for himself to shake hands with himself."

411

MADE IN THE U. S. A.

Wild-Eyed Customer—"I want a quarter's worth of carbolic acid."

Clerk—"This is a hardware store; but we have—er—a fine line of ropes, revolvers and razors."

412

OF ALL WRINKLES!

An Englishman and an Arab shared a compartment on a rattler and swapped gab with each other. "I'm a buyer of jewelry," said the Arabian, "what's your line?"

"I'm a mind reader," replied the Limey, "and I'll bet you a pound I can tell you where you're going." The wager was made and the Britisher proceeded: "You're going to London to purchase some cheap stones for about thirty pounds then you'll insure them for three hundred, go back to your store and have a fire."

The heeb chuckled and chirped: "You win my money."

"You mean to say," gasped the Englishman, who was kidding, "that I guessed right?"

"Nope," was the retort, "but you've given me a marvelous idea."

413

IGNORANCE IS BLISS

Way out West, there was a farmer named Hank Honk.

His children, who had deserted the farm years ago, sent him dough to come for a visit.

Hank stuck a plug of tobacco in his pocket and hopped a choo-choo.

Now, remember this, folks. The old boy had never been on a train in all his life.

Well, he rode all day and yawned all day and spit all day.

At about five o'clock, the train reached a tunnel.

It got so dark, you couldn't even see a lit match.

And it wasn't a two minute tunnel either. No, sir, it was a nice big one that lasted about thirty minutes.

Finally the train pulled out of the tunnel and it got light again.

Holy Wheatcakes!

You should have heard the commotion.

Some women blushed. Some women screamed. Some women fainted.

The men either laughed their heads off or sat there with their mouths wide open.

It was a strange sight that they beheld!

Hank had mistaken the tunnel for night time. He had taken off

his pants and stretched himself out on the seat for a night's sleep.

414

AN OBEDIENT DOG

Farmer had a dog by the name of Fido of which he was very fond. One day automobile came along and ran over poor Fido. Farmer was disconsolate. However, he decided to make the best of a bad situation, so he took the remains back to the wood-shed, skinned the body and sold it to a restaurant man, telling him it was 'coon meat.

Three or four days later farmer had to go to town. His shopping took him somewhat longer than he had expected, so he decided he'd better get dinner. He went into a restaurant and had a "regular dinner." Very good meal. In fact it was so good that when he got through he complimented the proprietor on it.

"That certainly was a fine dinner."

Restaurant man thanked him.

"And that was unusually fine meat," continued the farmer. "By the way, what kind of meat was that?"

"That was 'coon meat," replied the restaurant man.

(Dramatic pause.)

"'Coon meat!" echoed the farmer, "Er-a—where did you get the 'coon?"

That was the same 'coon you sold me a few days ago," was the answer.

(Another pause.)

The farmer never said another word. He picked up his change and walked to the rear door of the restaurant. He gazed meditatively at the sky for a moment or two, placed his hands across his stomach and said softly:

"Fido—Fido—you were a good dog. Sometimes I called you and you didn't come, but—you're going to come now, Fido!!"

415

SAVING A LIFE

Mark Twain tells his story of his own heroism:

"Boys, through my presence of mind I once saved a man's life. I was reading in my room late one night, when I heard fire bells. I strolled out to see where the fire was, and soon I came to a brick house that was burning hard.

"A man leaned out of the fourth-story window, calling, 'Help! Help!' He waved his arms around his head, making wild gestures. Everybody in the crowd below seemed paralyzed. No ladder was long enough to reach the man. If he stayed there he would be burned to death, and if he jumped he would be crushed flat.

"But I, with my presence of mind, came to the rescue. I rushed forward and yelled for a rope. The rope was brought. I then threw the end to the man. He caught it. I told him to tie it around his waist. He did so and I pulled him down."

416

PRETTY COOL

A firm in London received this letter from a resident in South Africa.

"Dear Sirs,—Kindly send me one of your famous razors, for which I enclose a postal note for 5s. P. S.—I have forgotten to enclose money, but no doubt a firm of your standing will not mind this."

They replied: "Dear Sir,—We have received your letter and have forwarded you the razor. P. S.—We have forgotten to send the razor, but no doubt a man with your cheek won't need one."

417

A SURE BET

Fleurette: "Is your new friend rich?"

Alys: "Rich! Why, say, that man is one of the biggest machine-gun salesmen in Chicago."

418

FRESH AIR FIENDS

Visitor—"Mr. Mayor, I have been investigating conditions in this city, and I find that the people are getting paler and paler every year."

Mayor—"Is that a fact?"

Visitor—"Yes, sir. Instead of robust citizens, we are turning out a lot of anemics."

Mayor—"I'm surprised. And what is the cause of this?"

Visitor—"Your Honor, they are neglecting the first principles of health. They are not getting enough fresh air."

Mayor—"That's too bad. Have you any suggestion to make to remedy this sad state of affairs?"

Visitor—"Yes, sir. The best thing would be to pass a law compelling every citizen to sleep with his windows wide open."

Mayor—"I think that is a very good idea. I thank you for calling it to my attention."

Visitor—"Don't mention it, Mr. Mayor. The pleasure is all mine."

Mayor—"By the way, what is the name of the organization that is so interested in the health of the citizens?"

Visitor—"It's the Independent Brotherhood of Burglars."

419

BEATS THE FAIRY STORIES

News comes from Southern Kansas that a boy climbed a corn stalk to see how the sky and clouds looked and that now the stalk is growing faster than the boy can climb down. The boy is clear out of sight. Three men have taken the contract for cutting the stalk down with axes to save the boy a horrible death by starving, but the stalk grows so rapidly that they can't hit twice in the same place. The boy is living on green corn alone and has already thrown down over four bushels of cobs. Even if the corn holds out there is still danger that the boy will reach a height where he will be frozen to death. There is some talk of attempting to rescue him with a balloon.

420

EXPENSIVE

The movie star was an applicant for a marriage license.

"But, lady," the clerk explained, "the law compels me to record all previous marriages before I issue a license."

"Good heavens!" exclaimed her prospective husband anxiously, "and I've got a taxi waiting!"

421

WHY HE WAS SO CORDIAL

Two travelers got into conversation, and one of them was most attentive to the other, pressing cigars, papers and refreshment upon him. Their destination was the same town, and the seemingly much-interested one insisted that his traveling companion come to his home for the night. This completed the latter's astonishment. He felt compelled to ask the reason for such unlooked-for hospitality. He was enlightened by this would-be host replying: "My wife says I am the ugliest man in the world, and I just want her to have a look at you."

422

FOLLOWING HIM

Nels Dregen, an old homesteader near Pequot, hadn't been farther away from home than Brainerd for a number of years. So, when

he cashed in on a load of baby beeves, he decided it was about time to visit some friends in St. Paul and Chicago.

"Taxi, sir!" some one shouted in his ear the moment he emerged from the St. Paul depot.

Nels shook his head and went on up the street.

His St. Paul visit over, Nels boarded a train for Chicago. And again as he emerged from the depot a man approached and shouted: "Taxi, sir!"

"No, you dam' fool," snorted Nels angrily, "I tol' you 'no' in St. Paul. Now, dammit, you quit following me around!"

423 SHE FORGOT HER FEET

It is told of a good old Scotch minister that he hates too much ceremony, and likes to have his visits to the members of his flock as informal and homelike as possible, but that he has a great regard for truth, and is invariably severe with those whom he detects in any variation therefrom.

Calling unexpectedly on a widow who lives in a cottage on the outskirts of the village, he surprised her in the midst of washing a lot of clothes. She hurriedly hid behind a clothes-horse full of clothes hung there to dry, and told her boy to tell the minister that she was out. The visitor knocked at the door. "Well, Jamie," he said, "and where is your mother?" "My mother's no in; she's doon the street on a message," was the lad's prompt response. "Indeed!" replied the minister, with a glance at the bottom of the screen. "Well, Jamie, tell her I called, and say that the next time she goes down the street she should take her feet along with her."

424 BOYCOTTING THE CONDUCTOR

"I shall have to ask you for a ticket for that boy, ma'am."

"I guess not."

"He's too old to travel free. He occupies a whole seat, and the car's crowded. There are people standing."

"I can't help that."

"I haven't time to argue the matter, ma'am. You'll have to pay for that boy."

"I've never paid for him yet."

"You've got to begin doing it sometime."

"Not this trip anyway."

"You'll pay for that boy, ma'am, or I'll stop the train and put him off."

"All right. Put him off, if you think that's the way to get anything out of me."

"You ought to know what the rules of this road are, ma'am. How old is that boy?"

"I don't know. I never saw him before."

425 REAPING

The following from the New York Times, we found recently in the humorous column of a widely circulated paper. There is more than humor in it:

A recent visitor to an English prison discovered among the inmates a man whom he knew. This particular prisoner had been finally laid by the heels for swindling, though for quite a time he had cut a large figure in English public life. But now he was making sacks.

The visitor went up to him and said, "Why, how do you do, Mr. Bottomley? What are you doing? Sewing?"

"No—reaping."

426 A FOOL ACCORDING TO HIS FOLLY

Once in traveling the Rev. Dr. Bledsoe was exceedingly annoyed by a pedantic bore who forced himself upon him, and made a great

parade of his shallow learning. The doctor endured it as long as he could, but at length, looking at the man, said: "My friend, you and I know all that is to be known." "Why, how is that?" asked the man, much pleased with what he thought a very complimentary association, "Why," blandly replied the doctor, "you know everything in this world, except that you are a fool—and I know that."

427

A BITTEN END

A beautiful young girl who was crossing the Atlantic on the same steamer as Marshal Joffre, when the latter came to visit America, asked the Marshal whether he had ever killed a German.

"Yes," said the Marshal.

"With what hand?"

"With the right hand."

The young girl seized the Marshal's hand, and putting it to her lips, kissed it.

"I killed two Germans," said an officer who was accompanying the Marshal.

"With what hand?" asked the young girl.

"I bit them to death."

428

WANTED EASIER SUMS FOR HIS BOY

The following letter was received by a teacher in a New York public school from a complaining parent:

"Sir: will you please for the future give my boy some easier somes to do at nites. This is what he brought home to me three nites ago: If fore gallins of bere will fill thirty to pint bottles, how many pint and half bottles will nine gallins fill? Well, we tried and could make nothing of it all, and my boy cried and said he wouldn't go back to school without doing it. So, I had to go an' buy a nine gallin keg of bere, which I could ill afford to do, and then we went and borrowed a lot of wine and brandy bottles, besides a few we had by us. Well, we emptied the keg into the bottles, an' there were nineteen, an' my boy put that down for an answer. I don't know whether it is rite or not, as we split some in doing it. P. S. Please let the next one be water, as I am not able to buy any more bere."

429

BY REQUEST

Scrivener, the great novelist, in a fit of anger had sacked his typist and was interviewing a fresh applicant. "Well," asked the famous man of the essentially modern young maid, "where were you last employed?" "In a doll factory," answered the girl quietly.

"Doll factory? What did you do there?"

"I was making eyes." And she blushed prettily.

"Very well, you're engaged," replied Scrivener. "But kindly don't demonstrate your capability when my wife is about."

430

MANNERS

Maggie: "Has he got good manners?"

Lizzie: "Say, I wish you'd see how he cleans up the gravy with a piece of bread. It's the prettiest thing in the world."

431

A BRILLIANT IDEA

Two sporting gentlemen were discussing the talents of a female fortune teller whose feats recently had been made the subject of a number of newspaper articles.

"Why, man, she can even read your thoughts," declared one of the men.

"Bet you ten dollars she can't," vigorously replied the other.

"That's a bet!"

To decide the winner they repaired to the studio of the fortune

teller. They explained the reason for their call to the lady.

"Oh, that's easy," she smilingly said to the negative better. "You are thinking of telephoning your wife tomorrow that you are called out of town on business for a few days. Then you will take your pretty blonde typist to Atlantic City."

"Marvelous!" declared the man, as he handed over the money to his friend. "She didn't read my mind, but she gave me a darned good idea!"

432 THE TICKETS DIDN'T TELL

A young man who had been out West to seek his fortune and hadn't found it finally returned home. He had been compelled to pawn his clothes and everything he had, but had succeeded in rescuing one suit from his uncle after the remittance from home came to his rescue.

However, he had forgotten to take the pawn tickets off the clothes. His fond mother was helping him unpack his trunk and came upon a coat with a pawn ticket pinned on it.

"John, what is that?" she asked.

"Oh, he said, 'I went to a dance once and forgot to take off the ticket they gave me when I checked my coat.'"

In a few moments the mother dug up the trousers that went with the coat, decorated with a pawn ticket also.

"John," she inquired sternly, "what kind of a dance was that?"

433 THIS ISN'T ALL BULL, EITHER

Instructions were once issued by the commanding officer of a certain military station permitting no one to walk over where the cow was pastured. The following day the general's wife wishing to take a short-cut, started to walk from one path to another.

"No one to pass here, madame," said the sentry.

The lady drew herself up haughtily. "Do you know who I am?" she demanded.

"No, madam," replied the man impassively, "I don't know who you are; but I know very well you ain't the general's cow, and no one else is allowed to walk on this grass."

434 FOLLOWING ORDERS

The station master on the East Indian Railway had been given strict orders not to do anything out of the ordinary without authority from the superintendent. This accounts for his sending the following telegram:

"Superintendent's Office, Calcutta: 'Tiger on platform eating conductor. Please wire instructions.'"

435 THE REAR GUARD

Artemus Ward was traveling on a slow-going Southern road soon after the war. While the conductor was punching his ticket, Artemus remarked: "Does this railroad company allow passengers to give advice if they do so in a respectful manner?" The conductor replied in gruff tones that he guessed so. "Well," Artemus went on, "it has occurred to me that it would be well, perhaps, to detach the cow-catcher from the front of the engine and hitch it to the rear of the train. For, you see, we are not likely to overtake a cow; but what's to prevent a cow strolling into this car and biting the passengers?"

436 DELAYED

A suburban train was slowly working its way through one of the blizzards of '94. Finally it came to a dead stop and all efforts to start it again were futile.

In the wee, small hours of the morning a weary commuter, numb from the cold and the cramped position in which he had tried to sleep, crawled out of the train and floundered through the heavy

snow-drifts to the nearest telegraph station. This is the message he handed to the operator:

"Will not be at office today. Not home yesterday yet."

437 NO CHANCE TO DISPLAY HER FORM

She was a very dinky little typist, and worked with a will for the stuffy old lawyer who employed her. The old gentleman, however, was rather slow at dictation, and the typist complained to another wage-slave of the firm that she was afraid she was losing her speed.

"Before I can show what I can do," she said, "I must have somebody much faster than the boss."

438 IN THE NEGATIVE

The irate customer shook his portrait in the photographer's face. "Do I look like this picture? The thing's an outrage. Why, you've given me an awful squint and the look of a prize fighter. Now, answer me, and no nonsense about it. Do you call that a good likeness?"

The photographer scanned the print, then looked at the customer. "The answer," he said, "is in the negative."

439 HE WOULDN'T GIVE THEM A CHANCE

"Do you sell stale eggs?" he asked the grocer. "No, we don't sell them, but I've got some." "Then give me all you've got." "I suppose," said the grocer with a knowing smile, "you're going to see the touring company in Hamlet tonight?" The customer looked 'round furtively: "No, I'm going to play Hamlet."

440 THERE WAS A CHANCE

"Going to send your boy on an ocean trip, are you?" said a friend to a father.

"Yes," replied the father. "You see, if there is anything in him I think a long sea voyage will bring it out."

441 LET'S GO!

She was a fair-haired, fluffy little thing, who had taken a position as saleswoman at Parker's popular department store. A few days later she met a boy friend and both stopped to have a little chat.

"How do you like your job?" inquired the boy friend.

"Oh, I like it very much," said the fluffy one. "Only they shift me about too much. At twelve o'clock I'm in hats, at three I'm in dresses, at four I'm in lingerie, at six I'm in stockings, and—"

"I'll look you up tomorrow at eight," said he.

442 THE COMMENT FROM THE REAR

Big game hunter (giving lecture in town hall): "I heard the bushes crashing! I raised my rifle to my shoulder and with nerves of steel waited! The fierce monster rushed at me with terrific speed and I drew a bead between his eyes, pulled the trigger and shot the bull moose!"

Voice in back of house: "That's all right, feller. But you could a saved that there last word."

443 WISDOM OF BOYS

An inspector of schools in South Africa invited some boys to join him in a swim in the lagoon. The boys watched him undress and go in, but themselves remained on the bank. After a long and enjoyable swim, the inspector chaffed the boys for not coming in, and said: "I suppose you are afraid to bathe with an inspector?"

"No, sir," said one of the boys, "but we saw a crocodile in this lagoon yesterday."

444

A PERSONAL MATTER

A woman entered a railroad station and asked the ticket agent: "Will you kindly give me a ticket for Magnesie?"

The agent looked in his books, at his maps, etc., and still couldn't find this place. At last he asked:

"My dear lady, where is Magnesie?"

"Oh," she said, "you see that little girl besides the satchel over there? Well, that's Magnesie!"

445

HE OBSERVED THE COMMANDMENT

Abel Lincoln, who was by no means a bad judge of painting, was shown a picture done by a very indifferent hand, and asked to give an opinion of it.

"Why," said Lincoln, "the painter is a very good painter and observes the Lord's commandments."

"What do you mean by that, Mr. Lincoln?"

"Why, I think," answered Lincoln, "that he hath not made to himself the likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath or that is in the waters under the earth."

446

NO CAUSE FOR ALARM

One morning while repairing the curb to his underground cistern a miserly farmer very unexpectedly fell in, pulling the rope with him as he went down. Having always been a good swimmer, he easily kept afloat, but the water was cold and he couldn't climb out. His wife was helpless, alone and without a rope.

"John!" she yelled down to him, "I'll ring the dinner bell so's the boys can come in and pull you out!"

"What time is it?" he shouted back.

"'Bout eleven o'clock."

"No, damn it, let 'em work on till dinner time. I'll just swim around till they come."

447

A GOOD EAR

"Charley," remarked Jones, "you were born to be a writer." "Ha!" replied Charley, flushing at the compliment, "you have seen some of the things I have turned off?" "No," said Jones, "I wasn't referring to what you have written. I was simply thinking what a splendid ear you have for carrying a pen. Immense, Charley, simply immense!"

448

WHOLLY UNAVOIDABLE

"Why did you rob this man in broad daylight?" inquired the judge of Sock 'Em Simpson, who had finally been taken into custody.

"Well, your honor," said the prisoner soothingly, "I regret the fact that it was so unconventional, but it so happened that I had engagements for each night this week."

449

HE COUNTED THEM

An American editor had a notice stuck above his desk that read: "Accuracy! Accuracy!"

One day a member of the staff came in with his report of a revival meeting. The editor saw the sentence: "Three thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine eyes were fixed upon the speaker."

"What do you mean by making a silly blunder like that? he demanded, wrathfully.

"But it's not a blunder," protested the youngster. "There was a one-eyed man in the audience!"

450

WRONG SHOP

I want a bottle of iodine."

"Sorry, but this is a drug store. Can't I interest you in an alarm

clock, some nice leather goods, a few radio parts, or a toasted cheese sandwich?"

451 KNOWS HIS ONIONS

Do you believe in the survival of the fittest?"

"I don't believe in the survival of anybody. I am an undertaker."

452 SANS LABOR

Choleric business man—"I don't know what the modern youngsters are coming to. My wretched office boys persistently whistle while they work."

Second Ditto—"You're fortunate. Mine just whistle."

453 LADIES FIRST

This notice adorned the ladies' cabin of a Hoboken ferryboat: "These seats are for ladies. Gentlemen will not occupy them until the ladies are seated."

454 HIS QUICK TRIP

He had been dining too well, and hailing a taxi, he crawled gingerly inside, after falteringly giving the driver his destination.

It happened that the opposite door had been left unlatched by the previous fare, and stumbling against it, the inebriated one fell out side again.

He picked himself up with difficulty and approached the driver.

"That's pretty quick work," he said. "How much do I owe you?"

455 OTHERWISE O. K.

"Darling, you would be a marvelous dancer but for two things."

"What are they, sweetheart?"

"Your feet!"

456 WASTE OF TIME

It seems almost as much of a waste of time to teach a girl baby to walk as to teach her to talk. She'll talk without any teaching, and walking is something girls won't do any more.

457 HANDS OFF

Barbara: "Have you heard Janet rave about the silk stockings she bought in Paris?"

Tom: "I asked her how much they cost," and she said, "You can't touch them for any amount of money."

458 THE WEEK END

William Collier, playing in "The Hottentot," was approached by one of his troupe when a Western tour started. "Will we play any Sunday performances?" the man asked. "Oh, yes, a number." "I am glad of that. I never know what to do with my week-end." "Why not keep your hat on it?" growled Collier.

459 HELPING THE HORSE

The nice old lady left the train and got into a cab.

The cabman said, "Gimme your bag, lady. I'll put it on the top of the cab."

"No, indeed," answered the dear old lady, "that poor horse has enough to pull. I'll just hold it on my lap."

460 HAD THE USE OF IT

"What'd it cost ye to raise it?"

"Paid \$3 for the shoat, \$5 for the lumber in the pen and house, and \$5 more for the feed."

"Didn't make much, did ye?"

"No, but I had the use of the pig all summer."

461

WHY HE JUMPED

"Why did you jump out of that window," the doctor asked a college student lying on the pavement.

"A woman lied to me," the college student replied.

"Well, I wouldn't take it so hard. What did she lie to you about?"

"She said her husband was in New York."

462

WORKING UP

An irate farmer, who had some trouble with a neighbor about the fences and the cattle, went to see a lawyer about it, and said: "I want you to write him a letter. I know what I want to say to him, but I ain't got l'arnin' enough to git it down." "And what is it you want me to say to him?" queried the lawyer, taking his pen in hand. "Well," was the answer, "you just begin by callin' him the lyinest, thievinest, meanest, lowdownest skunk on earth, an' then work up!"

463

CAN YOU TIE THIS?

An alert looking man was gingerly picking his way along the ties of a railroad, seemingly in search of something or someone.

"What are you looking for?" inquired a curious bystander.

"The president of this line," was the answer.

"But you'll not find him here"

"Maybe not, but I'm on his track."

464

THE LAST SUBDIVISION

"Could I talk over a little real estate proposition with you, sir?" asked the suave salesman.

"Indeed, yes," replied the man who had just been swindled in a land deal. "I'll be glad to discuss a small plot about three by seven that you'll be needing in just another minute."

465

WANTED A SUBSTITUTE

While waiting for the speaker at a public meeting, a pale little man in the audience seemed very nervous. He glanced over his shoulder from time to time, and squirmed and shifted about in his seat. At last, unable to stand it any longer, he arose and demanded, in a high, penetrating voice, "Is there a Christian Scientist in this room?"

A woman at the other side of the hall got up and said, "I am a Christian Scientist."

"Well then, madam," requested the little man, "would you mind changing seats with me? I'm sitting in a draft."

466

A FORGET-ME-NOT

Douglas Jerrold was walking with a party of literati in the country, and in the course of their regular walk they stopped to notice that the gambols of a little donkey. A very sentimental poet present said he should like to send the little thing as a present to his mother. "Do," replied Jerrold, "and tie a piece of paper round its neck, with the motto, 'when this you see, remember me.'"

467

HOW TO GET THE RIGHT NUMBER

For two weeks before planning to call send large boxes of candy to the operators daily.

File affidavit with manager that you will pay for call.

Make a phonograph record of desired number, repeating same five hundred times. Place phonograph before mouthpiece and start record going.

Buy out a telephone company.

468 WRONG METHOD

"Did you kill the moths with the moth balls I recommended?" asked the druggist.

"No I didn't!" said the customer truculently; "I sat up all night and didn't hit a single moth."

469 HER FIRST RIDE

It was the dear old lady's first ride in an auto, and she watched with growing alarm the driver continually putting his hand outside the car as a signal to the following traffic. At last she became angry.

"Young man," she said, "You look after that car of yours and watch where you are going. I'll tell you when it starts raining."

470 JUST A SAMPLE

A burly farmer entered a restaurant and ordered a beefsteak. He waited ten minutes or so.

Then a waitress brought a large plate, in the center of which a strip of meat reposed.

The farmer turned it over and examined it carefully. Then he said affably: "Yes, that's the sort of thing; bring me some!"

471 ENUF IS ENUF

The Carrs had recently had their sixth baby, reports T. Ott. Mrs. Carr, who was the wife of a trainman, was going down street when Mrs. Flynn called to her.

"Oh, Mrs. Carr, congratulations. I hear ye have a new baby."

"Yis," said Mrs Carr, "an' I hope it's the caboose."

472 THE OPENING

Graduate—"Have you an opening for a college trained man?"

Manager—"Yes. It's right behind you, would you mind closing the door as you go through."

473 LIONIZED

This is how the colonel and the lieutenant-colonel of a French regiment in Algeria were lionized. The major of the regiment one day came across a lion suffering grievous pain from a thorn in his paw. Pitying the poor animal, the major extracted the thorn. Considering what he could do in return for the kindness, the grateful lion secured a copy of the army register, ran his eye over the list of officers in the gentle major's regiment, and waylaid and devoured both the colonel and the lieutenant-colonel, so that his friend, the major, could be promoted.

474 TELLING GRANDMA

Grandmother: "Are you you fond of pets?"

Granddaughter: "Sometimes they are all right; it depends on the date. I'd rather dance though."

475 HOW TO TELL A GENTLEMAN

"Mr. Garvin," a man asked his tailor, "how is it you have not called on me for my account?"

"Oh, I never ask a gentleman for money."

"Indeed! How, then, do you get on if he doesn't pay?"

"Why," replied the tailor, hesitating, "after a certain time I conclude he is not a gentleman and then I ask him."

476 CLOSE QUARTERS

The cow of a Connecticut farmer, grazing near the state line, fell

a victim to a stray bullet; which was traced to the nearby rifle range where the Rhode Island militia were at target practice.

The colonel in command apologized to the farmer, and assured him that he would be promptly paid the full value of the animal.

"I want to say," said the resident of the Nutmeg State, "that I appreciate your fairness and courtesy, and I know it was just an accident but—can't you shoot lengthways of your state after this?"

477

EDUCATION COMES HIGH

"How is it?" asked an Englishman of an American friend, "that the Yankees get on in business, while many Englishman fail?"

"Brains, my boy!" was the reply. "You should eat more fish. Give me five dollars and I'll get you some of the fish that my wife gets for me. Eat it and see how you get on."

The Englishman parted with his five dollars and the fish was sent to him. Next day he met the Yank again. "How did you get on?" the Yankee asked.

"Well, it was splendid fish!"

"Do you feel any different?"

"No, I can't say I feel any different," said the Englishman, "but five dollars was a lot for a piece of fish, wasn't it?"

"There you are!" said the Yank. "Your brain is beginning to work already."

478

A BARGAIN

A certain thrifty farmer was paying his first visit to the city with his wife. They were walking along the street looking for a place to eat when they passed a handsome restaurant with a sign before the door saying, "Luncheon 12 to 3, 50c." The old lady never dreamed of stopping before such a fine place, but her husband paused. "We'll go in thar," he said reflectively. "It ain't such a bad bargain, Hannar—three hours' steady eatin' for a half a dollar."

479

SHOULD REFRAIN

She could stand it no longer. The man had the effrontery to continue smoking that vile smelling weed, in spite of the black glances she had been throwing his way.

"Sir," she said in a haughty voice, "smoking always makes me ill."

"Then, madam," replied her seat-mate, "take my advice and give it up."

480

RENTED

Flipp: "What a surprise to see you in a full-dress suit! Did you rent it?"

Flapp: "No; but every time I stooped over I thought I would."

481

NOT AN EVERYDAY AFFAIR

A well-known writer and orator who goes West every summer on his vacation was overtaken by night in a little village in Nebraska. He stayed at the local hotel. In the morning he wanted to take a bath, and consulted the landlord about it.

The landlord shouted back to the kitchen: "Hey, Jim, here's a gentleman wants to take a bath. Bring the fixin's."

Soon afterward a boy appeared, carrying a cake of yellow soap, a towel and a pickaxe.

"What's the pickaxe for?" asked the traveler.

"Why," said the landlord, "you'll have to dam up the creek."

482

WANTED ONE OF GOLD

Traveling Salesman: "Did you like the cigar I gave you? For 500 coupons of that brand you get a banjo."

Clerk: "If I smoked 500 of those cigars, I guess I'd want a harp."

483

THICK DIRT

The privates dragged the man to a stream of running water, undressed him, plunged him in and set upon him lustily with stiff brushes and large cakes of white soap.

After a long time one of the privates came back to make a report. He saluted his officer and said disconsolately:

"It's no use, sir. It's no use."

"No use?" said the officer. "What do you mean? Haven't you washed that Afghan yet?"

"It's no use, sir," the private repeated. "We've washed him for two hours, but it's no use."

"How do you mean it's no use?" said the officer angrily.

"Why, sir," said the private, "after rubbin' him and scrubbin' him till our arms ached I'll be hanged if we didn't come to another suit of clothes."

484

DOCTOR WAS TOO HOPEFUL

A doctor came up to a patient in an insane asylum, slapped him on the back and said: "Well, old man, you're all right. You can run along and write your folks that you'll be back home in two weeks as good as new."

The patient went off gayly to write his letter. He had it finished and sealed, but when he was licking the stamp it slipped through his fingers to the floor, lighted on the back of a cockroach that was passing, and stuck. The patient hadn't seen the cockroach—what he did see was his escaped postage stamp zig-zagging aimlessly across the floor to the baseboard, and wavering up over the baseboard, and following a crooked crack up the wall and across the ceiling. In depressed silence he tore up the letter he had just written and dropped the pieces on the floor.

"Two weeks! Hell!" he muttered, "I won't be out of here in three years."

485

FIRED WITH PAY

An employer, noted for his energy and lack of tolerance for loafing in any form, visited his stockroom and found a boy leaning idly against a packing case, whistling cheerily and with nothing at all on his mind. The chief stopped and stared. Such a thing was unheard of in his establishment.

"How much are you getting a week?" he demanded, with his characteristic abruptness.

"Twelve dollars."

"Here's your twelve. Now, get out. You're through."

As the boy philosophically pocketed the money and departed, the boss turned to the chief clerk and demanded:

"Since when has that fellow been with us?"

"Never, that I know of," was the response. "He just brought over a proof for us from the printer."

486

A SLOW COACH

In the early days of railroading in this country, an elderly gentleman was asked by the conductor for his ticket. The train had stopped at every little station, town and hamlet on the way, and was two hours late. "Your ticket, please," said the conductor. The man fumbled a great while in his vest pocket and finally presented a half-fare cardboard.

"Come," said the conductor, "this won't do, not for a man with hair as gray as yours, any way—this is a child's ticket."

"Well," responded the weary traveller, "I was a child when this train started, and I guess I'll be as old as Methusaleh by the time it gets me to where I want to go."

487 HE MUST HAVE SHAVED THE WRONG MAN

Scroogins was getting into hot water on parade for his untidy appearance. "And look at your face, man," snapped the officer. "Why haven't you shaved this morning?"

"Yes, sir, I have shaved this morning, sir," replied Scroogins.

"Rubbish. You're a growth of about three days."

Scroogins thought hard, and then said: "All I know, sir, is that I lathered my face myself this morning, but there were six of us using the same glass, and perhaps it was some other man's face I shaved."

488 WHAT THE PAPER NEEDED

"What you want on this paper," said the favored contributor, who was talking over a suggested series of articles with the editor, "is a bishop."

"I beg your pardon," said the editor.

"I said you wanted a bishop on the paper," affirmed the contributor.

"What ever for?"

"Well," replied the other, picking up his hat, "from what I've seen of it, there are a number of statements which need confirmation!"

489 NINE POINTS OF ADVICE TO GIRLS

1. Keep away from track men; they are usually fast.
2. Never make dates with biology students; they enjoy cutting up too much.
3. The football man is all right; he will tackle anything.
4. You can trust a tank man; he will dive in and do his best.
5. The tennis man is harmless, but he enjoys a racket.
6. Watch out for the baseball man; he hits and runs.
7. Be careful of the member of the dramatic club; he usually has several good lines.
8. Don't play cards with a civil engineer; he's a bridge specialist.
9. Always let the member of a band talk about himself; he enjoys blowing his own horn.

490 HAW, HAW, HAW

An Englishman just returning to London from a visit over here was much impressed with our slang phrase, "So's your old man." In telling his friends about it he explained: "You know they have a deucedly funny saying ovah theh when they question wot you say. Instead of sneering, 'Fiddlesticks,' or 'You don't mean it, old chappie,' they say, 'O hell, your fawther is the same way.' Clevah isn't it? Haw, haw."

491 MIXED

A man was shaving himself when a fly lit on his nose. He struck at the fly and accidentally cut off the tip of his nose. He got excited and dropped the razor, and it accidentally cut off the tip of his big toe. He had always heard that flesh would grow back if placed together immediately. In his excitement, he placed the tip of his toe on his nose, and the tip of his nose on his toe. He said it grew back all right, and everything worked O. K., except when he sneezed he snorted his shoes off.

492 NOTHING TO GROUSE ABOUT

A grim humour pervades the story about the German spy, sentenced to be shot, who had to walk some distance to the place where the sentence was to be carried out. It was a cold, rainy morning, and the German grumbled considerably at having to walk so far. His escort bore with him for some time, but at last, wearied by

the prisoner's interminable (and, as it seemed, unreasonable) complaints about the weather, one of them burst out with: " 'Ere, wot 'ave you to grouse about? We've got to walk back!"

493

WHAT A CHARGE

The attorney for the gas company was making a popular address. "Think of the good the gas company has done!" he cried. "If I were permitted a pun, I would say, in the words of the immortal poet, 'Honour the Light Brigade.' "

Voice of a consumer from the audience: "Oh, what a charge they made!"

494

PRACTICAL ECONOMY

It had been proposed to purchase ornamental boats for the lovely little lake in the city park, and delegations from the civic organizations waited on the city fathers to urge an appropriation for a dozen gondolas.

Alderman Molloy, the watchdog of the treasury, arose:

"I'm not saying that it wouldn't be a fine thing for the looks of the park," said he; "but let's go easy on the expenses this year. I move, Mr. Mayor, that we buy one male and one female gondola and let nature take its course!"

495

SOME YARN

A Californian and a New Englander were matching stories.

"Why," said the Californian, "We grow cabbage so big that an army of soldiers can camp under one."

"That's nothing," said the New Englander, "We make copper kettles in New England so big that a thousand men can be riveting one and yet be so far apart they can't hear each other's hammer."

"Go on," said the Californian, "what would anyone use a kettle of that size for?"

"Why to boil your California cabbage in," said the New Englander.

496

MISTOOK HIMSELF

A gentleman of Arizona once hanged himself to the bed post by his suspenders. The verdict of the coroner's jury was:

"Deceased came to his death by coming home full and mistaking himself for his pants."

497

ILLOGICAL

St. Peter was interviewing the fair applicant at the Pearly gates.

"Did you, while on earth," he asked, "indulge in necking, petting, smoking, drinking or dancing the Charleston or Black Bottom?"

"Never!" she retorted emphatically.

"Then why haven't you reported here sooner? You've been a dead one for some time."

498

SPEAKING OF FOREFATHERS

"What," shouted the business man to his office boy, "You want to get off to attend your grandmother's funeral? Do you realize that this is the third time in the past three months that you have made this request?"

"Sure," replied the O. B., "you see my grandfather was Brigham Young."

499

PANNING HIM

Madam entered the kitchen nervously; then, after a slight hesitation, she said to the cook:

"Listen, Eugenie, my husband complains that the soup isn't good

enough, that the roast tastes flat, that the sauce is not piquant, and so on. This can't last!"

And Eugenie answered with deep commiseration:

"I can well understand that this can't last. If I were you, madam, I should have left such a husband long ago!"

500

AT THE RACES

A young Hebrew circus performer, who had little religious training, received the following message from his orthodox parents:

"Come home. Yom Kippur starts tomorrow."

"Can't make it, but put ten on the nose for me," answered the "Wandering Jew."

